

Distribution Date	August 6, 2026
To	PPOC.ALL, Committee.CalWORKs_CalFresh.All
CC	Consortium.RegionalManagers.All; Consortium.SectionDirectors;
CIT Name	CalSAWS Job Aid- ABAWD with CDSS Exemption File Information

PPOCs, please forward to the appropriate impacted staff in your county:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ General | ☐ Reports |
| ☒ Policy | ☐ Fiscal |
| ☐ CW | ☐ Caseload Movement |
| ☒ CF | ☐ Management |
| ☐ MC | ☐ Batch and Interfaces |
| ☐ CMSP | ☐ Fiscal |
| ☐ FC/KG/AAP | ☐ GA/GR |
| ☐ Child Care | ☒ Help Desk |
| ☐ WtW | ☐ Imaging |
| ☐ Other Program(s) _____ | ☐ Security |
| ☐ BenefitsCal | ☐ Task Management |
| ☐ Customer Correspondence | ☐ Technical |
| ☐ OCAT | ☒ Training |
| ☐ Other _____ | |

Description

Purpose

The purpose of this CIT is to provide counties with the updated Job Aid for Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) which includes information on the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) CalFresh ABAWD Automated Exemption File, and the new automated functionality delivered under SCR CA-300398.

Background

[ACL 26-43 CF Work Registrants & ABAWD Establishing Exemptions Based on Admin Data](#) dated June 18, 2026, introduces the CDSS CalFresh ABAWD Automated Exemption File, known as the CDSS Exemption File, which provides verified exemption information sourced from statewide administrative data.

SCR CA-300398 CDSS CalFresh ABAWD Auto Exemption - Phase 1 with minor release of 26.08.09 automates the receipt and application of exemption information provided through the CDSS Exemption File. An exemption from the time limit for an ABAWD may be determined (1) manually by a case worker, (2) automatically based on existing data within the system, or (3) automatically based on data captured in the CDSS Exemption File. Phase 1 adds logic to grant ABAWD exemptions to individuals based on

the CDSS Exemption File. CalSAWS will be receiving the CDSS Exemption File during the first week of a month and uses the verified data to create a new Work Registration or a new ABAWD Exemption record, as appropriate.

To identify how each ABAWD exemption record was created, CalSAWS now includes a field indicating the exemption source on the Work Registration Detail and ABAWD Exemption Detail pages. The updated ABAWD Job Aid includes guidance for workers on these automated updates and the new System behavior.

Additional Information

The attached ABAWD Job Aid has been updated to include changes related to CA-300398. These updates appear in the following sections:

- Automatic Creation of Work Registration Records
- ABAWD Exemption Detail Page
- Automatic ABAWD Status Determination
- Batch
- New Section: CDSS Exemption File Examples

Note: There are upcoming changes later this year and the ABAWD Job Aid will be updated accordingly.

County Actions

Please distribute this CIT and the ABAWD Job Aid to any County staff who perform these functions.

If you have questions on this CIT, please reach out to the Primary or Backup Project Contact listed below and cc your Regional Manager(s).

Primary Project Contact

For CalFresh:
Norma Meza
MezaN@CalSAWS.org

Backup Project Contact

For CalWORKs/CalFresh:
Committee.CalWORKs_CalFresh.Facilitator@CalSAWS.org

Attachments

CIT 0137-26 JA ABAWD.docx

Communication Portal Link

[REDACTED]

OR

You may also retrieve the CIT document and attachments by following these steps:

1. Hover over the Communications & Resources tab at the top of the page.
2. Click on the "CalSAWS Information Transmittal (CIT)" folder.
3. Click on the "2026" folder.
4. Click on the appropriate CIT # folder.