



California Statewide Automated Welfare System

A large, stylized graphic on the right side of the page. It consists of several concentric circles in various shades of teal and blue. The word "Design" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of these circles.

Design

CA-300398

CDSS CF ABAWD Auto Exemption

CalSAWS	DOCUMENT APPROVAL HISTORY		
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CA-300398 CDSS CF ABAWD Auto Exemption

1 OVERVIEW

An exemption from the time limit for an Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) may be determined either (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. To identify how each ABAWD exemption was granted, CalSAWS must include a field indicating the exemption source. CalSAWS must also apply and track the exemptions provided through the CDSS Exemption File. Logic needs to be added to grant ABAWD exemptions for individuals based on the CDSS Exemption File.

1.1 Current Design

Currently, the system determines whether an individual is exempt based on information entered in Data Collection.

An ABAWD is a CalFresh (CF) recipient, aged 18 through 64, who is able-bodied and does not meet the criteria for an exemption from the ABAWD time limit **is subject to ABAWD work requirements.**

Active CalFresh members are exempt from ABAWD requirements if they qualify for any of the following reasons (reasons are listed in the hierarchy of determination):

1. CalFresh Individual qualifies for any of the following work registration exemptions:
 - a. Has a worker-created exemption record (i.e., Responsible for care of an incapacitated person or other worker identified exemption)
 - b. Is a child under 16 years of age
 - c. 16/17 and School Requirements Met or Not Required
 - d. Unfit for Employment - Medically Verified
 - e. Welfare to Work Participant
 - f. Cares for Dependent Child Under 6
 - g. Applied for or Receiving Unemployment
 - h. Drug/Alcohol Program Participant
 - i. Working 30 hrs. or more weekly
 - j. Weekly Earnings = Fed Minimum Wage x 30hrs
 - k. Student Half Time or More
 - l. Is 60 years of age or older
2. Under age 18

3. **Over Age Limit** (Is 64 years or older)
4. Native American/American Indian
5. Care of child under 14'
6. Is pregnant
7. Is obviously unfit for employment
8. Applied for disability benefits
9. Participating in an ORR training program at least half-time

CalFresh active members who are determined to be an 'ABAWD' are subject to ABAWD work requirements.

1. An individual determined to be 'ABAWD' who is performing in any, or a combination of any, of the following activities is deemed to be satisfying the work and community engagement requirement:
 2. Works at least 20 hours a week (or 80 hours per month) through employment, (including In Kind, Community Service or Volunteer Work).
 3. Participates in an allowable work activity such as vocational training or educational programs for at least 20 hours a week (or 80 hours per month).
 4. Participates in training or education for at least 20 hours a week combined (or 80 hours per month).
 5. Satisfies the ABAWD work requirement through Workfare. ABAWDs must fulfill the work and community engagement requirement by participation of hours equal to their household's CalFresh benefit allotment divided by the state or local minimum wage, whichever is highest. Workfare cannot be combined with other activities to meet the work requirement.

Note: CalFresh applicants determined to be 'ABAWD' can be exempt from work requirements if any of the following is true:

1. ABAWD determination is for a Partial month
2. County is under an ABAWD Geographical Waiver
3. Individual qualifies for Discretionary exemption
4. Individual qualifies for good cause

ABAWD Status for CalFresh individuals is determined and tracked in CalSAWS. This status is determined through both CalFresh EDBC and a separate batch process that evaluates monthly ABAWD and work registration requirements. When a change occurs that effects ABAWD status and the worker has not run EDBC, the ABAWD Determination Cyclic batch job will process the update. Any resulting changes to ABAWD status will be visible after the batch run. Please find more details on CA-239421.

The Time Limit page tracks each CalFresh individual's ABAWD time limit information. A daily batch job synchronizes the ABAWD Time Limit Month based on the individual's ABAWD Status.

Until June 1, 2026, CalSAWS applied the ABAWD waiver to all counties exempting all ABAWDs from the time limit.

1.2 Requests

1. Update the ABAWD Exemption Detail page and Work Registration page to indicate whether a record was created by the System, Worker or by the CDSS Exemption File.
2. Implement a monthly DCR to add the new Work Registration/ABAWD Exemption record for the individuals with a begin month as identified by CDSS on the ABAWD Exemption Detail page and Work Registration page. This DCR process will end date any existing Work Registration records to the month prior to the new record begin month. (Long term will automate this process)
3. Update ABAWD automation logic to determine an individual as exempt when a CDSS Exemption File record is valid for the benefit month. ABAWD exemption determination logic will follow the existing exemption reason hierarchy when determining an individual's exemption.
4. Update CalSAWS to create journals containing appropriate information to capture the ABAWD status changes.
5. Process any record through the ABAWD determination batch when CDSS Exemption File adds a record on the ABAWD Exemption Detail page or the Work Registration Detail page.

1.3 Overview of Recommendations

1. Update ABAWD Exemption Detail page and Work Registration page to indicate whether a record was created by the System, Worker or by the CDSS Exemption File.
2. Implement a monthly DCR to add the new Work Registration/ABAWD Exemption for the individuals with a begin month as identified by CDSS on the ABAWD Exemption Detail page and Work Registration page.
3. Update ABAWD logic to determine an individual as exempt when a CDSS Exemption File record is valid for the benefit month.
4. Update CalSAWS to create journals containing appropriate information to capture the ABAWD status changes.
5. Create a new batch job to auto trigger an ABAWD Determination when DCR makes an update to the ABAWD Exemption Detail Page.

1.4 Assumptions

1. Work Registration detail page only allows for one active record at a time and adding a new record will automatically end date the previous record.
2. There won't be any new exemption reason(s)/types added to the Work Registration Detail page or ABAWD Exemption Detail page with this SCR.

3. The ABAWD Exemption Detail page can allow for multiple records at a time, and new records will be added with the CDSS Exemption File, regardless of prior ABAWD records listed on the page.
4. CDSS Exemption File will not provide any begin dates in the future.
5. CDSS Exemption File will not provide any begin dates in the past.
6. CDSS Exemption File will not be limited to HR1 individuals; HR1 individuals may be included if they fit the criteria.
7. Once an ABAWD Time Limit Clock is created, the monthly ABAWD Time Clock Status Sync Job batch updates the ABAWD Time Limits page when an exemption is established.
8. The new ABAWD Sweep job will run ABAWD rules from the Begin date of the Work Registration/ABAWD Exemption record till the come-up month. It does not run CalFresh EDBC.
9. The system will create a new Work Registration or ABAWD exemption record from the CDSS Exemption File even when an exemption of the same type already exists in CalSAWS.
10. Source determination functionality will be updated with SCR CA-299906 in 26.09 release

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 ABAWD Exemption Detail

2.1.1 Overview

This SCR modifies the “ABAWD Exemption Detail” page to have a “Created By” field that displays if an exemption is created by the CDSS Exemption File or a Worker.

2.1.2 ABAWD Exemption Detail Mockup

The mockup shows a form titled "ABAWD Exemption Detail". At the top right are "Save and Return" and "Cancel" buttons. A legend indicates that an asterisk (*) denotes required fields. The form contains the following fields:

- Name:** * CROSIER, DILLION 66M
- Type:** * Applied for Disability Benefits
- Begin Date:** * 05/09/2026
- End Date:** (empty field with a calendar icon)
- Created By:** CDSS Exemption File (this field is highlighted with a red box)

At the bottom right are "Save and Return" and "Cancel" buttons.

Figure 2.1.1 – ABAWD Exemption Detail Edit Mode

ABAWD Exemption Detail

*- Indicates required fields

Name: *
CROSIER, DILLION 66M

Type: *
Applied for Disability Benefits

Begin Date: *
05/09/2026

Created By:
CDSS Exemption File

End Date:

Edit Close

Edit Close

Figure 2.1.2 – ABAWD Exemption Detail View Mode

2.1.3 Description of Changes

1. Add a new "Created By" field to the page "ABAWD Exemption Detail" in View and Edit mode.
 - a. The read-only value will be either the "CDSS Exemption File" or "Worker".
2. When an ABAWD Exemption is created by the "CDSS Exemption File", the only editable field will be the "End Date" field.
3. Note: When an ABAWD Exemption is created by the "CDSS Exemption File", the "Type" field will display the type of the CDSS Exemption as View only.

2.1.4 Page Location

- **Global:** Eligibility
- **Local:** Customer Information
- **Task:** ABAWD Exemption

2.1.5 Security Updates

N/A

2.1.6 Page Mapping

Create page mapping to reflect the new "Created By" field.

2.1.7 Accessibility

The page should be assessed for accessibility requirements to meet Accessibility Standards.

2.1.8 Page Usage/Data Volume Impacts

N/A

2.2 Work Registration Detail

2.2.1 Overview

This SCR modifies the "Work Registration Detail" page to have a "Created By" field that displays if an exemption is created by the CDSS Exemption File, the System or a Worker.

2.2.2 Work Registration Detail Mockup

The mockup shows the 'Work Registration Detail' page in Edit Mode. It features a header with the title 'Work Registration Detail' and a legend '* - Indicates required fields'. The main form area contains fields for Name, Type, Status, Status Reason, Volunteer, Excluded, Begin Date, End Date, and Expected End Date. The 'Created By' field is highlighted with a red box and shows 'Worker'. At the bottom, there is a status bar with the text 'Last Updated On 04/10/2020 5:31:59 PM By: 506050' and two buttons: 'Save and Return' and 'Cancel'.

Name *	Type *	Created By *
CROSIER, DILLION 66M	CFWR	Worker

Status *	Status Reason *
Exempt	60 years of age or Older

Volunteer *	Excluded *
No	No

Begin Date *	End Date *	Expected End Date *
03/01/2020		

Last Updated On 04/10/2020 5:31:59 PM By: [506050](#)

Save and Return Cancel

Figure 2.1.1 – Work Registration Detail page (Edit Mode)

The mockup shows the 'Work Registration Detail' page in View Mode. It features a header with the title 'Work Registration Detail' and a legend '* - Indicates required fields'. The main form area contains fields for Name, Type, Status, Status Reason, Volunteer, Excluded, Begin Date, End Date, and Expected End Date. The 'Created By' field is highlighted with a red box and shows 'Worker'. At the bottom, there is a status bar with the text 'Last Updated On 04/10/2020 5:31:59 PM By: 506050' and three buttons: 'Next', 'Edit', and 'Close'.

Name *	Type *	Created By *
CROSIER, DILLION 66M	CFWR	Worker

Status *	Status Reason *
Exempt	60 years of age or Older

Volunteer *	Excluded *
No	No

Begin Date *	End Date *	Expected End Date *
03/01/2020		

Last Updated On 04/10/2020 5:31:59 PM By: [506050](#)

Next Edit Close

Figure 2.1.2 – Work Registration Detail page (View Mode)

2.2.3 Description of Changes

1. Add a new "Created By" field to the page "Work Registration Detail" in View and Edit mode.
 - a. The read-only value will be either "System", "CDSS Exemption File", or "Worker".
2. When a Work Registration record is created by "CDSS Exemption File", the only editable field will be the "End Date" field.

2.2.4 Page Location

- **Global:** Eligibility
- **Local:** Customer Information
- **Task:** ABAWD Exemption

2.2.5 Security Updates

N/A

2.2.6 Page Mapping

Create page mapping to reflect the new "Created By" field.

2.2.7 Accessibility

The page should be assessed for accessibility requirements to meet Accessibility Standards.

2.2.8 Page Usage/Data Volume Impacts

N/A

2.3 Eligibility Rules Updates

2.3.1 Overview

CalFresh applicants and recipients are eligible for ABAWD Exemptions that are determined by CalSAWS workers, to meet requirements, this design will update CalFresh ABAWD determination logic to allow exemptions to be applied that are provided by verified data, collected by third party sources.

2.3.2 Description of Changes

1. Update ABAWD determination for individuals when the ABAWD Exemption Detail page or Work Registration list page have a record added by CDSS Exemption File.
 - a. Update EDBC rules to determine an individual ABAWD exempt when a 'CDSS Exemption File' determined exemption record is valid for the benefit month.
 - i. CalSAWS will continue to make a determination for ABAWD exemption determined by the 'system' and take precedence over an ABAWD exemption record determined by the 'CDSS Exemption File'
 - ii. The ABAWD hierarchy will be applied in the following order for CDSS Exemption File:
 1. Under age 18
 2. Is 64 years or older
 3. Native American/American Indian
 4. Care of child under 14'
 5. Is pregnant
 6. Is obviously unfit for employment
 7. Applied for disability benefits
 8. Participating in an ORR training program at least half-time
 9. CDSS Exemption File created record
 - iii. Note: 'Is obviously unfit for employment' Exemption can be received through the CDSS Exemption File and will populate in the ABAWD Exemption Detail page, however manual selection for workers will remain on the Medical Conditions detail page. Refer to Assumption #2: new exemption reason(s)/types will **not** be added to the ABAWD Exemption Detail page for manual selection.
 - b. Update EDBC rules to determine an individual Work Registration exemption when a record is active on the Work Registration detail page with Type as 'CFWR', Status is exempt and provided by the CDSS Exemption File.
 - i. EDBC will make a determination solely based on the 'CDSS Exemption File' record that is currently active on the Work Registration detail page.
 - c. If multiple CDSS identified ABAWD exemptions exist for the individual for the benefits month, ABAWD determination will choose the latest CDSS identified exemption.
 - i. CDSS Exemption file can report more than 1 Exemption record in the same file or report an additional record in the following months file.

2.3.3 Example Scenarios

Disclaimer: The below scenarios are not requirements. They are meant to help guide understanding and testing and may mention items that are not being changed by the specific language in the requirements.

Example 1: A CalWORKs/CalFresh household consisting of two parents and a child become active for CF benefits as of 5/2026 benefit month. Both parents are Work Registration exempt for 'Welfare to Work Participant'. In the month of August, a record is added by the CDSS Exemption File in the Work Registration Detail page with type 'CFWR', status as 'exempt' and status reason of 'Unfit for Employment-Medically Verified' for each parent with a Begin Date of 9/1/2026. Note: The 'Welfare to Work Participant' exemption record will be automatically end-dated upon the creation of the new 'Unfit for Employment-Medically Verified' record. The new ABAWD sweep job will run ABAWD rules from the Begin date of 9/1/2026 till the come-up month. When the worker runs EDBC, EDBC rules will determine the parents with exempted status in the CF EDBC summary page under the Work Registration section for a status reason of 'Unfit for Employment-Medically Verified' from 9/2026 benefit month.

Example 2: A CalFresh household consisting of one parent and a 15-year-old child become active for CF benefits as of 7/2026 benefit month. The parent is a non-exempt ABAWD. In the month of October, a record is added by the CDSS Exemption File in the ABAWD Exemption Detail page with the type 'Applied for Disability Benefits' with Begin Date of 11/1/2026. The new ABAWD sweep job will run ABAWD rules from the Begin date of 11/1/2026 till the come-up month. When the worker runs EDBC, EDBC rules will determine the parent with exempted status in the CF EDBC summary page under the ABAWD Exemption section for a status of 'Applied for Disability Benefits' from the 11/2026 benefit month.

Example 3: A household consisting of two individuals become active for CalFresh benefits as of 1/2026 benefit month. Person 1 was determined to be work registrant exempt for 'Drug/Alcohol Participant' and Person 2 was determined to be exempt for 'Applied for or Receiving Unemployment'. In the month of September, a record is added by the CDSS Exemption File in the Work Registration Detail page with type 'CFWR', status as 'Exempt' and status reason of 'Responsible for the Care of an Incapacitated Person' for Person 2 with a Begin Date of 10/1/2026. The system will end date the previous 'Applied for or Receiving Unemployment' Work Registration record with a date of 9/30/2026. The new ABAWD sweep job will run ABAWD rules from the Begin date of 10/1/2026 till the come-up month. When the worker runs EDBC, EDBC rules will determine Person 2 with exempted status in the CF EDBC Summary page under the Work Registration section for a status reason of 'Responsible for the Care of an Incapacitated Person' from 10/2026 benefit month.

2.3.4 Programs Impacted

CalFresh

2.3.5 Performance Impacts

No Performance Impact

2.4 Insert Journal Entry for ABAWD Status Changes

2.4.1 Overview

A Journal Entry is needed in CalSAWS to inform when an individual's ABAWD or Work Registration exemption status has been updated by the 'CDSS Exemption File' on the ABAWD Exemption Detail page or the Work Registration Detail page and a new exemption status has been determined.

2.4.2 Description of Changes

Insert a Journal Entry when an individual has a record added to their ABAWD Exemption detail page or Work Registration Detail page through the 'CDSS Exemption File' and determination results in a new exemption status update.

Journal Entry: ABAWD Exemption Created by the CDSS Exemption File	
Trigger Condition	An active CF case has an ABAWD or Work Registration exemption identified by the CDSS Exemption File through the monthly DCR and determination results in a new exemption status.
Long Description - Journal Entry Verbiage	An ABAWD determination was made based on the ABAWD/Work Registration exemption provided by the CDSS Exemption File. Individual(s) <First name, Last name> has been determined exempt for the following reasons <Exemption reason listed> respectively. Note: The First Name, Last Name and Exemption Reasons will dynamically populate for all affected individuals
Short Description	CDSS Exemption File Update
Case Types	Active
Journal Category	Eligibility
Journal Type	Narrative

Code Number	To be assigned during build
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2.4.3 Programs Impacted

CalFresh

2.4.4 Performance Impacts

No Performance Impact

2.5 DCR for Monthly CDSS Response File for Work Registration and ABAWD Exemptions

2.5.1 Overview

Based on the CDSS response CalSAWS will create Work Registration and ABAWD Exemption records for the indicated individuals and exemption reasons.

2.5.2 Description of Change

1. For each row in the CDSS response CalSAWS will create either:
 - a. A Work Registration of type "CFWR", with Status "Exempt", and Status Reason and Begin Date as indicated by the CDSS response.
 - i. The Volunteer and Excluded values will be No. They are the current page defaults.
 - ii. This will include adjustments to existing records to conform with the standard effective-dating behaviors to end-date existing records with no end-date value specified (to the date one calendar day prior to the new CDSS-specified exemption beginning) or in the case of pre-existing Work Registration records beginning in the future, the newly created CDSS-exemption records will be end-dated one calendar day prior to the begin date of the existing record to preserved the existing data. Please refer to section 2.5.3 for examples.
 - b. An ABAWD **Exemption record** with the Status "Exempt" and Status Reason and Begin Date as indicated by the CDSS response.
 - i. Existing records will not be changed when new records are created since there can be multiple active ABAWD Exemption records with the Status "Exempt" at a given time.

2.5.3 Examples

Example of how existing records will be updated when new records are created for Work Registration:

1. **Existing record has no end date; new record begins later:** When a new CDSS record is created, any existing record with an open end date must be end dated one calendar day prior to the new record's begin date.
 - a. Existing Record: Begin 01/01/2026, End None
New Record: Begin 09/01/2026, End None
Updated Existing Record: Begin 01/01/2026, End 08/31/2026
2. **Existing future-dated record begins after the new record:** If a record with a future begin date exists the new record will have an end date one calendar day prior to the future record begin date. ~~dated~~
 - a. Existing Record: Begin 11/01/2026, End None
New Record: Begin 09/01/2026, End 10/31/2026
Existing Record remains unchanged.
3. **New record is inserted between two existing records:** When an existing record precedes a future-dated record, the new record should be inserted between them. The earlier record is end-dated one calendar day prior to the new record's begin date. The future record is retained as-is if its begin date occurs after the new record's end date.
 - a. Existing Record A: Begin 01/01/2026, End 11/30/2026
Existing Record B: Begin 12/01/2026, End None
New Exemption: Begin 09/01/2026, End 11/30/2026
Updated Existing Record A: Begin 01/01/2026, End 08/31/2026
Existing Record B remains unchanged.

Example of how existing records will be updated when new records are created for ABAWD Exemption:

4. When a new CDSS record is created, any existing record with an open end date will not be impacted by the new record getting created.
 - a. Existing Record: Begin 09/01/2026, End None
New Record: Begin 09/01/2026, End None
No update to existing record.

2.5.4 Execution Frequency

This will be run monthly after receiving the exemption file from CDSS. This is expected to be received from the partner during the first week of a month.

2.5.5 Key Scheduling Dependencies

This will be required to run prior to the new ABAWD sweep job specified in section 2.6.

2.5.6 Counties Impacted

All Counties

2.5.7 Category

N/A

2.5.8 Data Volume/Performance

N/A

2.5.9 Failure Procedure/Operational Instructions

N/A

2.6 Batch - New ABAWD Sweep job

2.6.1 Overview

Create a new ABAWD sweep job to trigger ABAWD determination when there is a Work Registration exemption record or ABAWD exemption record that is created by CDSS Exemption File.

2.6.2 Description of Change

1. Create a new batch to run ABAWD rules from the current month benefit month (Work Registration/ABAWD Exemption Begin date) till the come-up month with an active/ineligible/UP/FRE/FRI CalFresh member as of the benefit month that qualifies for all the following conditions:
When a Work Registration of type "CFWR", with Status "Exempt" was created between the Last Successful Batch Date and Batch Run Date. The record Created by is "CDSS Exemption File."
OR
When an ABAWD Exemption Detail record is created between the Last Successful Batch Date and Batch Run Date, and the record Created by is "CDSS Exemption File."

2.6.3 Execution Frequency

Daily (Monday - Saturday) excluding Holidays.

2.6.4 Key Scheduling Dependencies

Before the ABAWD Determination Thread Jobs. After the DCR in section 2.5.

2.6.5 Counties Impacted

All counties

2.6.6 Category

Core

2.6.7 Data Volume/Performance

N/A

2.6.8 Failure Procedure/Operational Instructions

Batch Support Operations staff will evaluate transmission errors and failures and determine the appropriate resolution (i.e., manually retrieving the file from the directory and contacting the external partner if there is an account or password issue, etc.)

2.7 eHIT – No Impact

2.8 Form/NOA Name – No Impact

2.9 Report Name – No Impact

2.10 Data Warehouse Name – No Impact

2.11 Data Change – No Impact

2.12 Automated Regression Test

2.12.1 Overview

Assess for creation of new regression test scripts and updates to existing regression test scripts based on the system test scenarios for the permanent functional changes outlined above.

2.12.2 Description of Change

1. Evaluate each system test scenario for the potential of automation. Known exclusionary criteria:
 - a. Temporary or one-time changes (ex., Data Change Requests, operational batch job execution)
 - b. Technical limitations (ex., visual comparison of a static document against a template)
 - c. Security restrictions (ex., access to an external service requiring Multi-Factor Authentication)
 - d. Required manual intervention (ex., physical printing, document scanning, forced service outage)
2. For each scenario determined to be an automation candidate, modify the system test scenario to be executable as part of the Regression Test Suite. This may include the following:
 - a. Repeatability: The script must be able to execute multiple times between data refreshes.
 - b. Targetability: The script must fully and accurately verify the actual result against the expected result of the scenario.

3 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

N/A

4 OUTREACH

4.1 Lists – No Impact

5 APPENDIX

N/A