

CalFresh ABAWD Work Requirements



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Presentation to the Human Services Commission
August 2018

CalFresh Work Requirements Resume in California

- Introduced in 1996 as part of federal welfare reform
- Time limits access to nutrition benefits unless participating in work activities
- Applies only to “Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents”
- Waived in California since the great recession
- September 1: San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties must implement due to low unemployment



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Time Limits

- California's statewide 36-month "clock" started January 1, 2017 and will reset January 1, 2020
- Only 3 months of benefits in this time for anyone who is not exempt or meeting the work requirement
- Clients who lose eligibility for CalFresh can regain it (i) before 2020 if they become exempt or start working, or (ii) on 1/1/20 when a new three-year period starts



Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)

- CalFresh time limits apply only to ABAWDs, who are 18 – 49 years old
- 15,000 affected in San Francisco – one in 4 CalFresh recipients



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ABAWD in San Francisco

3,900 MOST AT RISK OF LOSING BENEFITS:

NEED TO DOCUMENT AN EXEMPTION OR WORK ACTIVITIES



64% MALE
GENDER AT BIRTH



89%
SPEAK ENGLISH AS
PRIMARY
LANGUAGE



24%
WHITE

22%
AFRICAN
AMERICAN

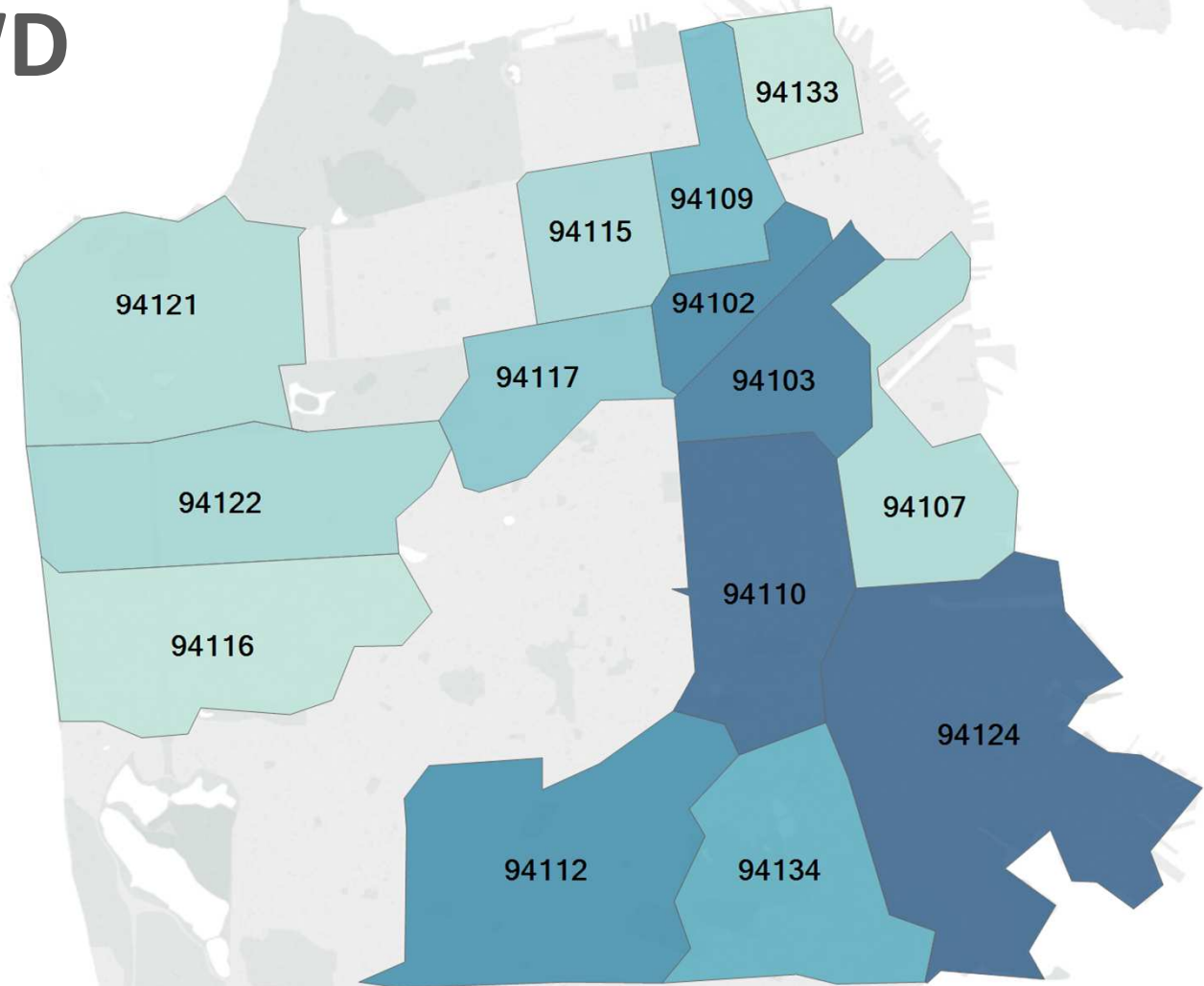
27%
UNKNOWN/
OTHER

14%
CHINESE/API

13%
LATINO/HISPANIC

“At Risk” ABAWD

Zip codes of residence



Exemptions

Clients may be excused from work requirements if they are:

- Chronically Homeless
- Pregnant
- Living with a child
- Volunteering at least 20 hours a week
- Earning at least \$218 a week
- Caring for a child or anyone who is ill/disabled
- Applied for or receiving unemployment insurance, disability or veterans' benefits
- Unable to work due to domestic violence
- Struggling with or receiving treatment for drugs or alcohol
- Going to school or employment training
- Experiencing a physical, mental or emotional disability



Additional Flexibility to Exempt

- Each state is allotted a number of individual exemptions equal to 15% of the state's SNAP caseload that is subject to the time limit.
- This allows the county to exempt some clients who would otherwise be subject to the time limit.
- ABAWDs the county has been unable to screen for exemptions or offer to place in a work activity, as well as those facing special circumstances, will be prioritized for these exemptions.



Exemption Screening Underway

KNOWN EXEMPTIONS ON CASE FILE



HOUSING STATUS/HOMELESS



EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

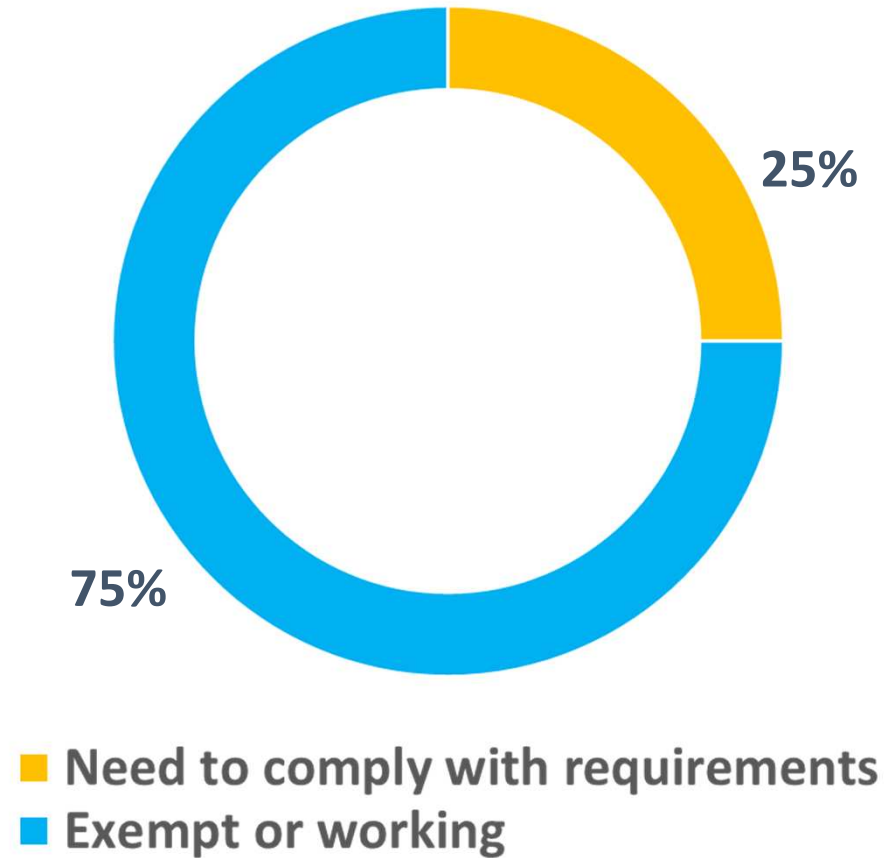


AGE AND DISABILITY



CHILD IN THE HOME

2018 San Francisco Screening Pilot



Meeting work requirements

For clients not exempt from working:

- Work at least 20 hours per week, on average 80 hours per month
- Volunteer or perform community service 20 hours per week
- Employment training
- Participate in workfare, less than 20 hours per week

Work and education activities can be combined to satisfy the requirements.

HSA can help with jobs, education, and employment training.



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CalFresh Employment and Training

Job Readiness and Placement

Career Planning
Identify Barriers
JobsNOW! Subsidized
Employment

Vocational Training

On the Job Training
Life Skills
Case Management

Education

English Immersion
GED
Post-Secondary Programs



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Communications and Partnership

- Client communication campaign began in July: mail, phone, text
- Community Forum held in July
- Established referral pathways between HSA and community service providers
- City departments informed and engaged (Public Health, Child Support, Probation, Office of Workforce, Public Works, MTA)
- Expanded public and private workfare sites
- For emergency food needs:
 - 2-1-1 and San Francisco Marin Food Bank Food Locator
 - <https://foodlocator.sfmfoodbank.org/>
- Informational resources available at www.SFHSA.org/CalFreshWorkRules



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For More Information

 Call our Service Center: (415) 558-4700

Visit our website: www.SFHSA.org/CalFreshWorkRules



Email: food@sfgov.org

Connect on social: [@SFHumanServices](https://www.instagram.com/SFHHumanServices)



Drop by one of our Service Center locations:



1235 Mission Street

1440 Harrison Street



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