

SPUR

Ideas + Action for a Better City

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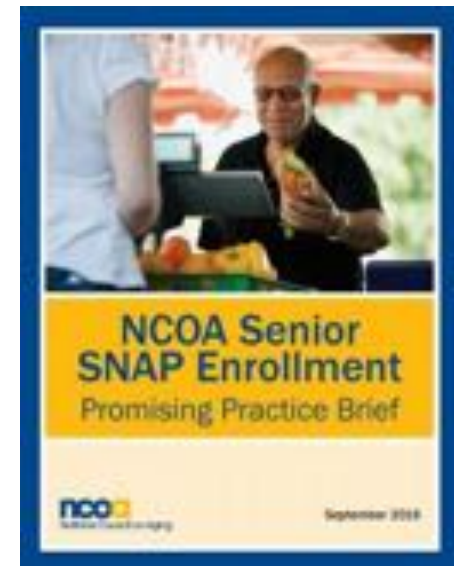
#FoodPolicy

SNAP, ABAWDS, WORK AND TIME LIMITS

SPUR San Jose

About SPR

- Social Policy Research Associates (SPR) is a research, evaluation, and technical assistance firm founded in 1991
- Clients include federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and foundations
- Nationally recognized in workforce development and human services program evaluations
- SNAP focused projects:
 - USDA FNS Elder SNAP Access Study
 - USDA FNS SNAP and Work Survey
 - NCOA SNAP Enrollment Initiative Evaluation



What is SNAP?

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- ❑ Named CalFresh in California
- ❑ Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service
- ❑ Authorized every 5 years by Congress through the Farm Bill
- ❑ Current reauthorization is in a Conference Committee process



Who are ABAWDs?

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- Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents between the ages of 18 – 49 years old
- 3.8 million SNAP participants (about 8.8 percent of all participants)
- Average household income = \$367/month (33% FPL)
- 2% of those on SNAP for 8 years or longer



What's the Time Limit?

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- ABAWDs can get SNAP only for 3 months in 3 years if they don't meet work requirements or exemptions
- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (1996) imposed the time limit
- Benefits are cut off after 3 months even if someone is searching for a job
- States can receive exemptions in periods of high unemployment, like during the Great Recession

Recent Impact of Time Limits

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“In 2016, at least a half-million unemployed individuals lost SNAP benefits due to this rule, many of them very poor individuals who receive no other form of basic assistance. (Income for those affected averages just 18 percent of the poverty line.)”

[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)



Why here, why now?

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- States qualify for a waiver in all or part of a State if
 - ▣ recent unemployment rate of over 10 percent,
 - ▣ recent 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national unemployment rate for that same 24-month period, or
 - ▣ designated as a Labor Surplus Area by the U.S. Department of Labor
- CA reinstated work requirements in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties on 9/1/18
- California's remaining 55 counties will maintain their ABAWD time limit waivers through 8/31/19

SNAP and Work

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- Many SNAP participants must meet work requirements or participate in voluntary work or training programs
- ABAWDs are a subset of this population and must meet additional requirements
- States offer SNAP Employment & Training Programs of varying intensities
- These programs may or may not be coordinated with the federal workforce training system



ABAWDS and Work

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- ABAWDs must work at least 20 hours per week, participate in education/ training activities at least 20 hours per week, or comply with workfare
- Does not apply to people who are physically or mentally disabled, participating in rehab program, are students enrolled at least half time or other exemptions defined by the State

Thank you!

□ Madeleine Levin

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The CalFresh ABAWD Time-Limit: Implementation in California



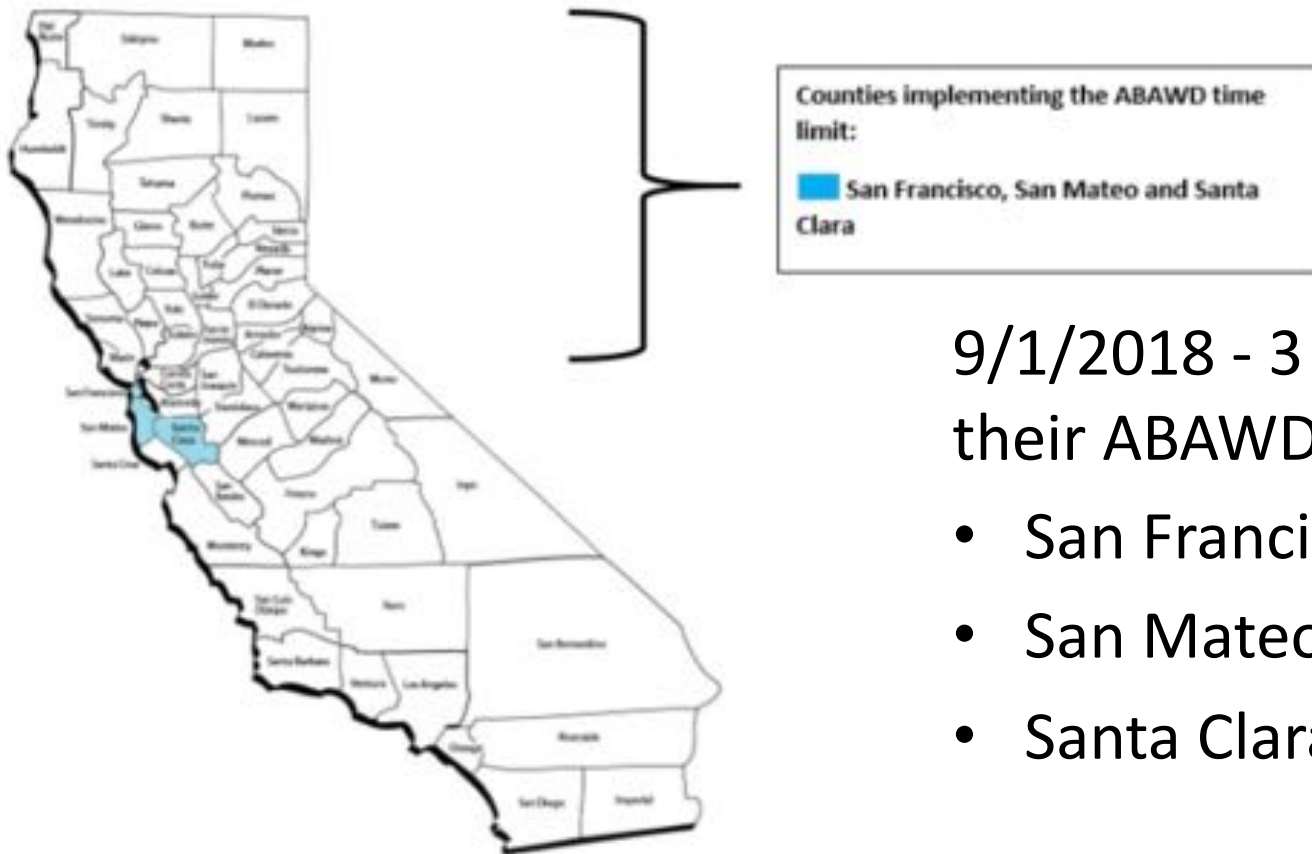
California Association of Food Banks

Mission: End Hunger in California



- We represent over 40 food banks in CA.
- Advocacy on state and federal hunger issues.
- Convene the Alliance to Transform CalFresh.
- CalFresh Outreach funding/program guidance to 54 local organizations.
- Farm to Family program.

Which Counties are Affected by CalFresh ABAWD time-limits?



9/1/2018 - 3 counties lost their ABAWD waiver:

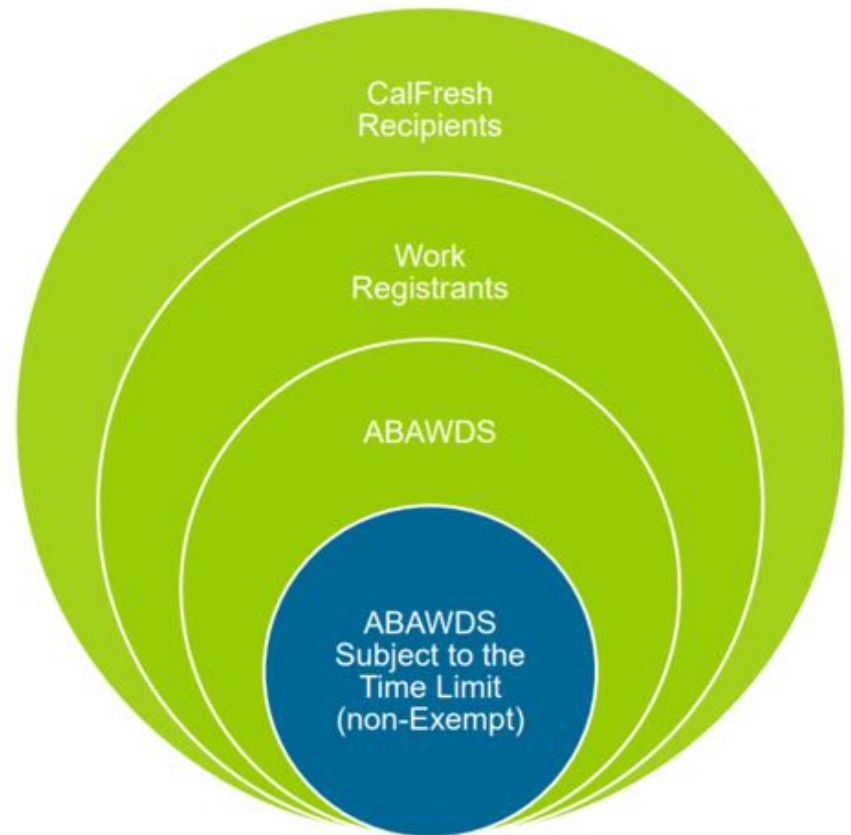
- San Francisco
- San Mateo
- Santa Clara

Implementing ABAWD Rules

Step 1: Identify who has an ABAWD designation.

Step 2: Screen for time-limit exemptions.

Step 3: Help identify work activities.



<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CalFreshResourceCenter/Webinars/ABAWD101Webinar.PDF?ver=2017-07-26-085216-427>

Maximizing Exemptions (Step 2)



Many ways to be exempt from the ABAWD time limit, e.g.:

- Working or attending school
- Pregnant
- Caring for dependent under 6 or residing with household member under 18
- Applied for or receiving Unemployment or Disability
- Drug/alcohol treatment
- Unable to work because of mental/physical disability

CDSS ABAWD Handbook for complete list + explanations

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CaFreshResourceCenter/Webinars/ABAWDExemptionsWebinar.pdf?ver=2017-10-10-131559-060>

California's 3-year Clock

- California's 36-month clock began on 1/1/2017.
- The next 36-month clock will begin on 1/1/2020.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017												
2018									SF, SM, SC		TODAY	
2019									TBD: CC, Alameda, Marin			

Example: San Francisco

- ~50,000 CalFresh recipients in SF:
 - ~11,000 with ABAWD designation
 - ~5,000 most at risk of losing CalFresh
- Piloted and rolled-out a CalFresh ABAWD survey to proactively identify exemptions.
- Broke down demographics of people with ABAWD designation: zip codes, languages spoken, race/ethnicity, age, gender.
- Community meeting in July 2018, over 100 people participated.
- Food resources referral sheet.



Did your CalFresh benefits recently stop?

CalFresh rules in San Francisco changed on September 1st, 2018.

The benefit time limit affects adults aged 18-49 who don't have a disability and don't have children (referred to as Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents). If you are considered a person with "ABAWD" status, you may only receive CalFresh for three months in a 36-month period, unless you meet an exemption or are meeting work requirements.

What should you do next?

Step 1. Call the Human Services Agency at 415-558-4700:


You may be eligible to keep receiving CalFresh if you are working or facing barriers to work. If you are unable to meet the work requirements, tell HSA staff about your circumstances. They can connect you to job training programs or let you know if you meet a work exemption.

Step 2. Access community food resources:

Call 2-1-1, a free and multilingual referral helpline available 24/7, or visit the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank's Find Food page: www.sfmfoodbank.org/find-food

Still have questions?

Visit HSA's website for details and updates about CalFresh: www.sfhhsa.org/calfresh



Follow us @calfreshsf

<https://www.sfhhsa.org/calfresh/keeping-calfresh-benefits/CalFresh-work-rules/calfresh-work-rules-resources>

Resources and Information

CDSS Resources:

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/CalFresh/ABAWD>

- [Webinars](#) on specific ABAWD topics
- [ABAWD Handbook 1.0](#)

CAFB Resources:

<http://cafoodanks.org/abawd>

- [Handbook](#) for CalFresh Outreach Workers
- [CAFB](#) training materials, FAQ pages, etc.

Questions?

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Advocacy Manager

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@CAFoodBanks



CODE *for*
AMERICA



GetCalFresh.org

Code for America is a state outreach contractor



that focuses on digital community outreach



GetCalFresh.org

Get help putting food on the table

Apply for food stamps in 10 minutes

Apply now →



What is GetCalFresh?

- A service provided by Code for America that acts as a **digital assister**, available at: <https://www.getcalfresh.org> ([demo here](#))
- It allows anyone to apply for CalFresh **using a mobile phone**, and guides them through the eligibility process using **email, text, and live chat support**
- Like an assister, it works **on top of existing systems**, translating required questions to plain language, and submitting them to YBN



Resetting expectations: who's applying for CalFresh

- **Losing a job is a leading reason why people apply:** 23.4% of working age adults have lost a job in the last 30 days
- **One job isn't enough to make ends meet for single-person households**
 - 44% of applicants have at least one source of earned income, and nearly 90% work at least 20 hours a week. Less than 40% have a job that gives them 40+ hours a week.
- **Nearly 35% of applicants don't have stable housing:** they're crashing with friends or family, living in their car, staying outside

I was embarrassed to ask for help. After I realized I would not have enough money to eat, I applied for help from CalFresh based on the advice from a friend. I'm glad I did, because **the help I received made all the difference in the world. It took away the tremendous stress I've been under, and the utter despair I was feeling, and allowed me the time I needed to get back on my feet.**

- Client from Santa Clara

I have a job, but was in a really tough financial situation. My boss cut my hours and barely had enough money to make my rent. CalFresh allowed me to eat regularly over the past six months, and wouldn't have been able to survive without it.

- Client from San Francisco

Screening for ABAWDs and maximizing exemptions

Your county is required to apply federal work requirement rules to some people receiving CalFresh. You may be exempt from these rules. Fill out this form to let your county know if any exemptions apply to you.

Select any that describe your situation.

☐ Homeless

☐ Pregnant

☐ Living with a child under age 18

☐ Caring for a child under age 6 or someone who is sick or disabled

☐ Unable to work due to domestic violence

☐ Struggling with or receiving treatment for drugs or alcohol use

Making it easier for county workers

GetCalFresh ABAWD exemptions



Like many other assisters, GetCalFresh asks questions to help our applicants understand their eligibility requirements. This page summarizes what our applicants have told us about their exemptions for ABAWD work requirements. We provide this information to the county in case it is a helpful reference. See ACL 16-24 for more information.

Applicant name

DOB

SSN

WORK REQUIREMENT EXEMPTIONS

☐ Homeless

☐ Pregnant

☐ Live with a child under age 18

☐ Care for a child under age 6 or someone who is sick or disabled

☐ Physical, mental, or emotional disability that prevents working

☐ Applying for or getting disability benefits or veterans' disability

☐ Applying for or getting unemployment

☐ Going to school or employment training

ABAWDs and reported exemptions

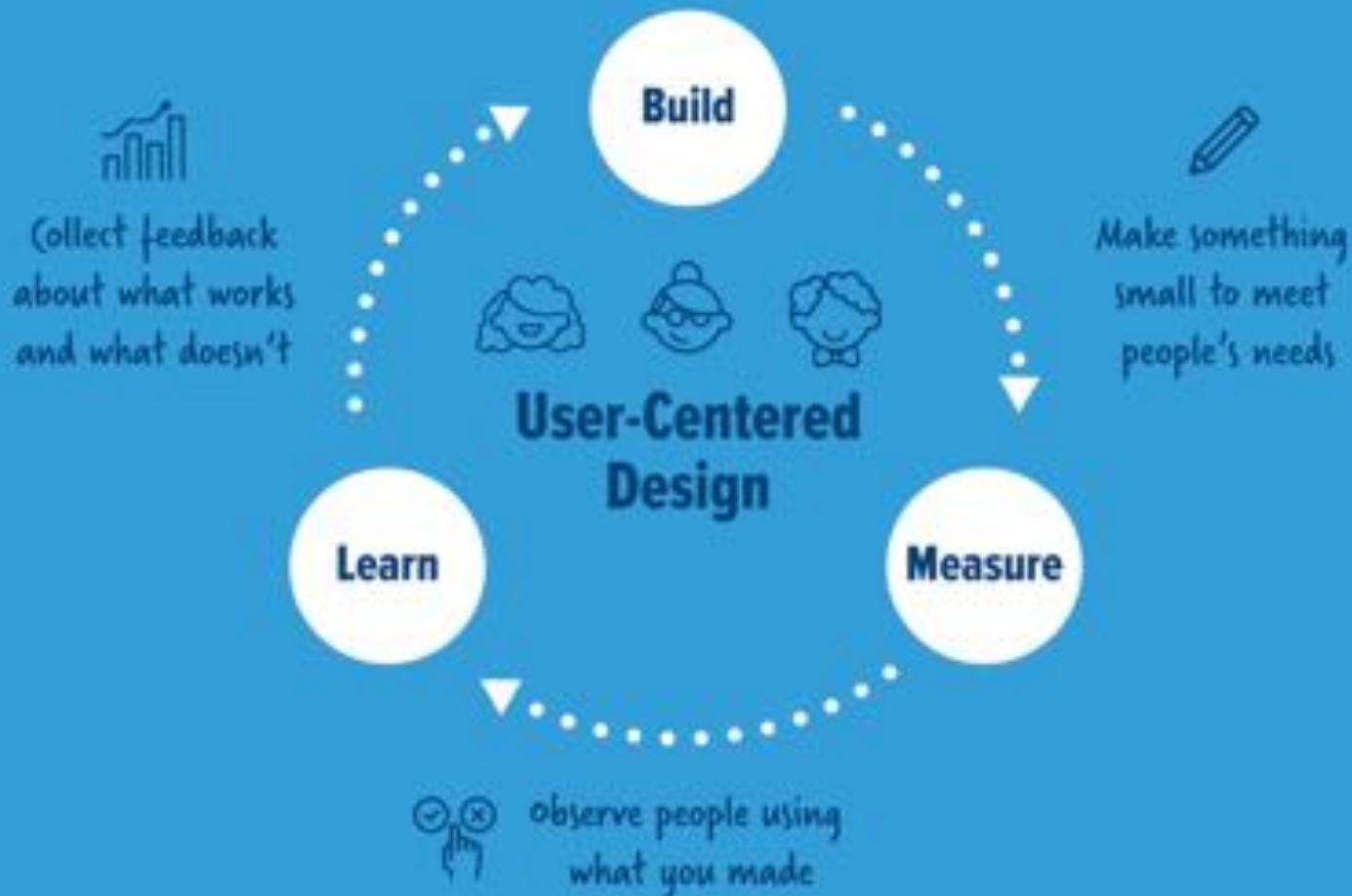
- **57% of applicants are likely ABAWDs**, and 80% apply as a single person household
- **76% report exemptions:** what is most commonly reported?
 - Attending school: 42%
 - Homeless: 18%
 - Earning at least \$218 a week: 14%
 - Applying for or getting unemployment benefits: 8%
- **23% of ABAWDs do not report an exemption** and likely have one job that provides less than 20 hours (or \$218 a week)

Learning where clients are getting stuck

“My county said that I’m an ABAWD and need to work 20 hours a week. **I just got a job and they’re giving me 15 hours a week. Is that okay? Am I supposed to send you proof?** I’m hoping I’ll do well enough that they’ll give me more hours next month.”

“I am volunteering to keep my benefits, but would prefer to get a better job so I can stop working dead end jobs. **Can you help me find a training or something? I don’t know what comes next.**

“I work two jobs and am lucky to get 20 hours a week. **I’d like to work 1 job with 40 hours, but no one can help me figure out how.** Would you hire someone like me?



WELCOME

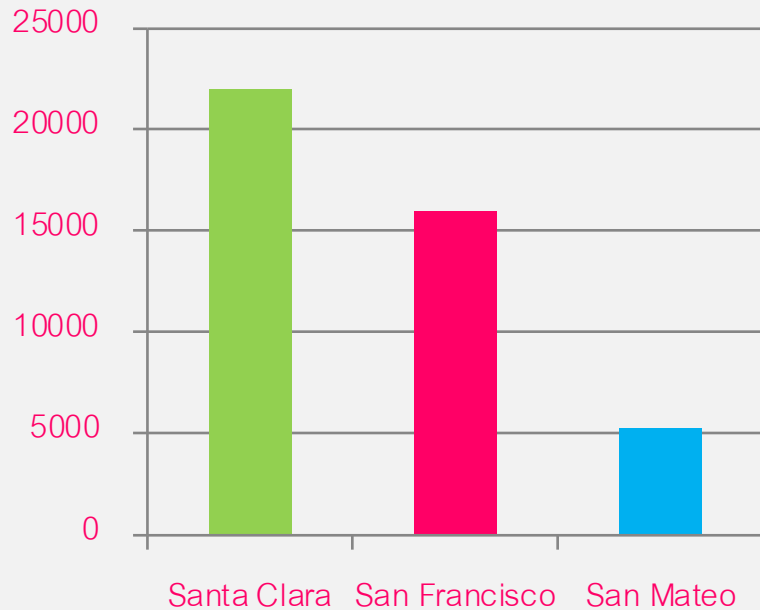


ABAWD Implementation in First Wave County

Santa Clara County



A B A W D C o u n t s

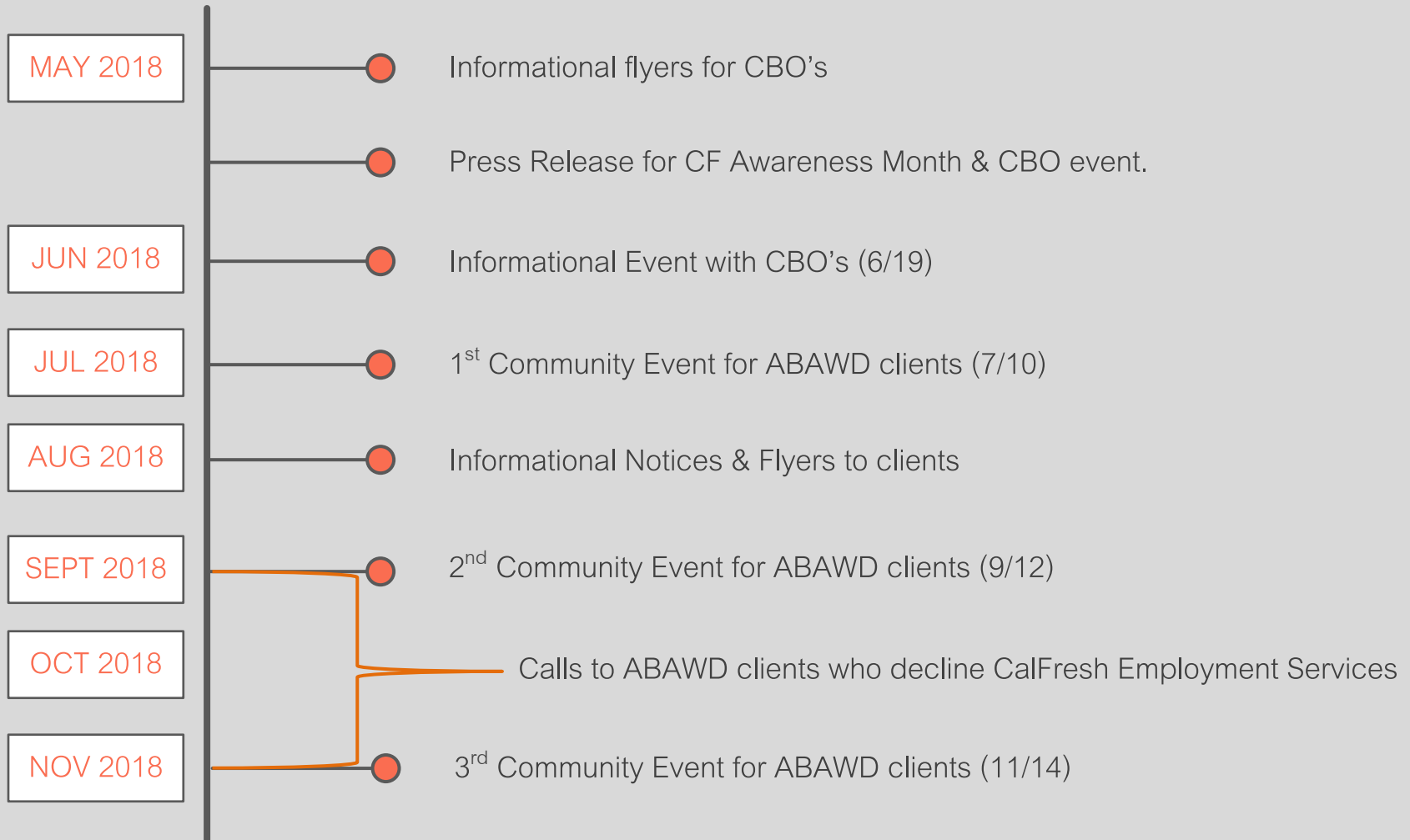


Santa Clara County 22,000

San Francisco County 16,000

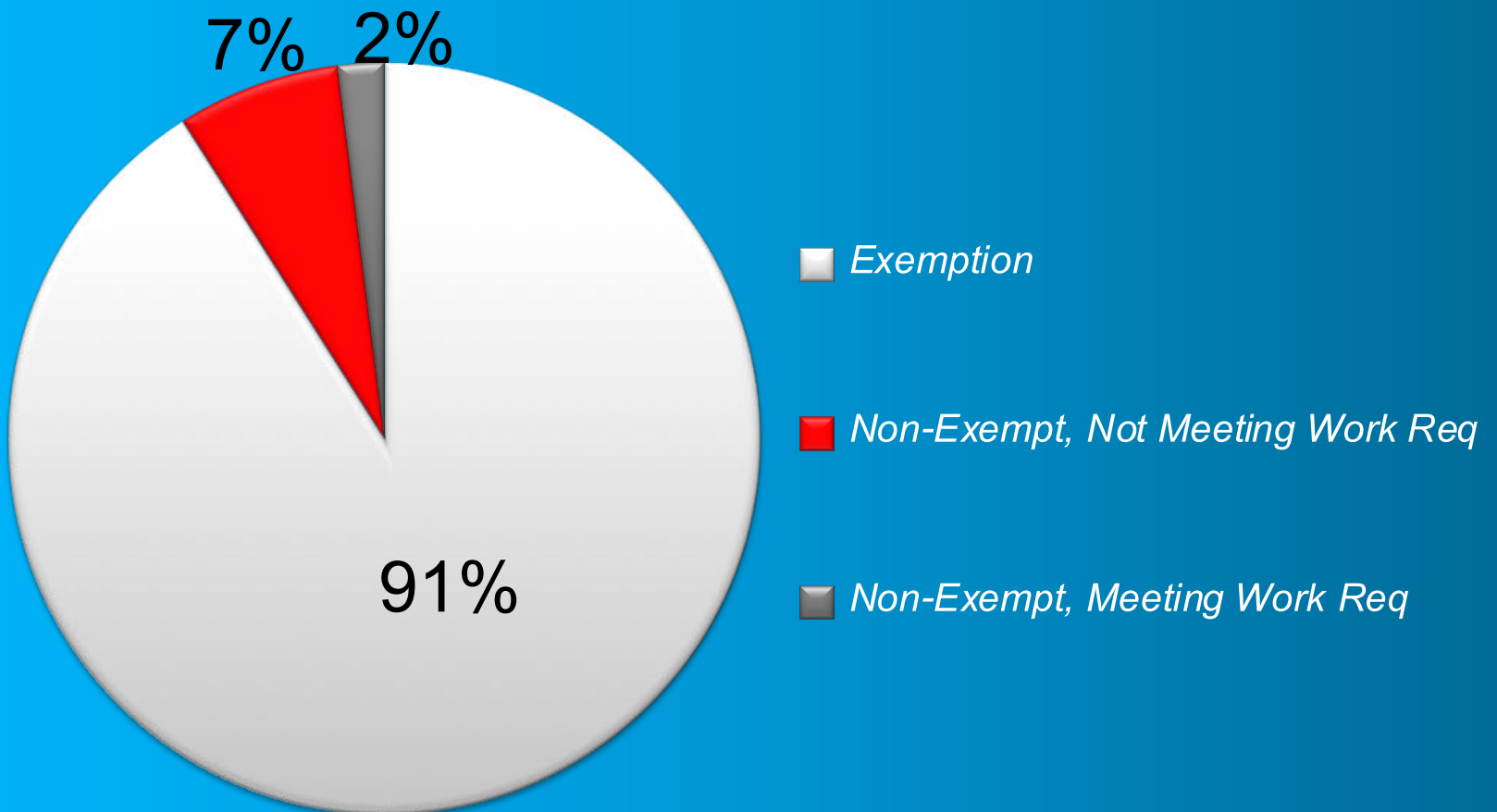
San Mateo County 5,300

COMMUNITY AND CLIENT OUTREACH:



- Sent informational mailers to potential ABAWD clients & CBOs
- Held Informational Community Events

ABAWD Outcomes: Santa Clara





Employment Services: Santa Clara

CalFresh Employment & Training (CFET)

- ✓ Increased number of Employment Counselors
- ✓ Developed additional worksites for Workfare (parks, community centers, SSA offices etc.)
- ✓ Contracted with 6 Community Based Organizations
- ✓ Services and events available:
 - One-on-One Job Search Support
 - Job Search Training Workshops
 - Job Fairs & Employer Recruitment
 - Vocational Training Programs
 - Adult Education
 - Support Services, such as transportation



ABAWD Outcomes: Santa Clara

- # referred to employment services orientation: 369
- # showed for employment services orientation: 148
- Orientation show rate: 40%
- Assigned activity among those who showed:
 - 48% job search
 - 30% employment/self employment
 - 3% vocational services
 - 30% workfare
 - 19% other

A

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ONGOING ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

To engage ABAWD clients and ensure they are not “left behind”

AUTO-GENERATE TEXTS, ROBO CALLS & EMAILS SENT

- *48 hours prior the CF ABAWD VS Orientation date*
- *To clients who No Show for their scheduled ABAWD ES Orientation*
- *To clients who are not meeting CalFresh work requirements*

PERSONAL CALLS FOR CLIENTS WHO DECLINED CALFRESH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

To engage ABAWD clients and ensure they are not “left behind”

INFORM CLIENTS

- *Tell clients about this change*
- *Encourage clients to:*
 - Be screened for exemptions*
 - Sign up for CalFresh Employment & Training*
 - Contact their Eligibility Worker*

WHAT YOUR AGENCY CAN DO

- *Become a work site provider, or*
- *CFET Third Party Partner*



Questions?

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408-755-7545

Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties



Free healthy food when you need it.

Call **1-800-984-3663** Weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

You can also: Learn more at **SHFB.org/getfood**
Text "**FOOD**" to **1-408-455-5181**
Email **food@shfb.org**

Contact Second Harvest Food Bank today.

Our friendly staff speak English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Tagalog.
Second Harvest is not a government agency.



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