



IN BRIEF

✓ **DSS tells county to illegally deny food stamps to student.** On 5/13/04 LaTanya Lee of Los Angeles County asked DSS whether or not a student who enrolls in school in August, but starts in September is eligible for Food Stamps in August. It was Los Angeles County's position that the student should be eligible for one month. To support their position they referenced MPP § 63-406.22 which states:

.22 The enrollment status of a student shall begin on the first day of the school term of the institution of higher education.

DSS responded that this poor student who needs food stamps for one month should be denied notwithstanding the clear mandatory language of § 63-406.22. DSS states that if a student is enrolled, then they are ineligible.

✓ **DSS wants to impose unlawful food stamp sanctions.** On 2/22/04, DSS asked FNS, the federal agency administering the Food Stamp program, whether or not the State can require food stamp recipients who have served their 1,3 or 6 month penalty period continue to be denied food stamps until they comply with the work requirement that caused the food stamp sanction. FNS has already told DSS that once a individual "does the time", they have to be released from the sanction and be allowed to apply for food stamp benefits and received such benefits if otherwise eligible. In February Tom Gary of FNS again told DSS that they cannot deny food stamp benefits to an individual for failure to perform the act that caused the duration sanction that they served.

✓ **Able Bodies Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) Clock.** A DSS policy interpretation issued in 10/2/03 holds that the ABAWDS clock cannot start unless the county explains the ABAWDS rule and provide information to the applicant.

✓ **Americorps hours count for ABAWDS**
- On 3/12/04 Riverside county asked DSS whether or not the Americorps community service hours count for the purposes of satisfying the ABAWDS work requirements. On 4/1/04 DSS analyst Robert Nevin responded that in accordance with MPP § 63-40.211 and 7 CFR 273.24(a)(2)(iii) Americorps hours would count towards the required ABAWDS hours of participation.

✓ **Lonnie Carlson, Presiding Judge of Northern California to Retire** - Lonnie Carlson, who started an administrative aid at DSS in the early seventies, then became Acting Director of DSS is going to retire on September 30, 2004.

Lonnie has been instrumental of keeping the welfare hearing system responsive to the needs of the claimants and also trying to keep the counties happy, which is a hard thing to do.

Lonnie has been the Chief Referee twice, Deputy Director for legal affairs, Chief Deputy Director and Acting Director before Eloise Anderson. He has also been involved in promoting youth soccer in Sacramento County. Lonnie will be missed sorely.

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CWD VICTIMS OF THE WEEK

Ms. V.R of Los Angeles County is homeless with three children.

Even through she is homeless, she was still asked to participate in the wasteful GAIN program.

She was scheduled for an orientation appointment on 4/22/04 @ 8 a.m. She arrived late. She explained that she was experiencing child care and transportation problems.

The county did not advance her funds for transportation - a violation of EAS §42-770.21 that states:

.21 Payments for supportive services, except child care as described in Chapter 47-100, shall be advanced to the participant when necessary and desired by the participant so that the participant need not use personal funds to pay for these services.

No transportation funds were advanced to this homeless family of (4) four. She was late because she needed child care to get her 5 and 7 year old kids off to school. She also had no child care for her three (3) year old.

Since June of 2004, Ms. V.R. has been losing \$135 month because of this stolen from Ms. V.R. and her homeless little children by Los Angels County DPSS.

Statistic of the Week

This week we look at the Food Stamp Expedited Food (FS-ES) Stamps in California's 58 counties during the months of January through March of 2004 based upon the public data of the State Department of Social Services. The data reflected in these reports come from the 58 California counties.

A detailed **Table #2** on page 5 sest forth comprehensive county-by-county data.

48% of the food stamp applicants were evaluated for FS-ES. The remaining 52% of the applicants were not even considered for FS-ES.

Studies have shown that generally people apply for public assistance as a last resort, after borrowing from everyone and being foodless.

The Top Ten worse counties who fail to determine applicants for FS-ES are:

Alameda	20%
Marin	19%
Sacramento	18%
Madera	17%
Tulare	13%
Mono	13%
Orange	7%
Stanislaus	5%
San Joaquin	4%
Imperial	2%

NOTE: We excluded Mono county because of the small caseload they have and San Mateo County failed to report any persons applying for food stamp benefits during January, February and March of 2004.

The Top Ten Best Counties are:

Tuolumne	86%
San Diego	76%
Yuba	73%
Los Angeles	73%
Santa Cruz	60%
Sonoma	58%
Kern	56%
Santa Clara	56%
Napa	55%
Tehama	54%

One may wonder what is the big difference

between an applicant in Stanislaus County and Kern County. Both counties have high unemployment.

A more classic case is the difference between Yuba County and Sutter county. Both counties are located in the same community. On the same street the left side houses can be in Yuba County and the right side houses can be in Sutter. However, Sutter county only considered 25% of the applicants for FS-ES, while Yuba County considered 73%.

How unfortunate for a hungry family to live on the Sutter County side of the street.

The Top Ten Counties not issuing FS-ES during the timelines mandated by law are:

Mono	14%
Los Angeles	14%
Stanislaus	12%
Tehama	7%
Nevada	7%
El Dorado	5%
Fresno	4%
Calaveras	4%
Inyo	4%
San Mateo	4%

The rules for FS-ES are very simple.

If the food stamp household has less than \$150 income and less than \$100 in liquid resources, then the household is entitled to receive food stamp benefits within three calendar days.

If the household has more than \$150, but their income is less than the rent and utilities of the household, then the household is entitled to receive food stamp benefits within three calendar days.

Statewide 8% of the cases were in violation of §63-501.531.

Los Angeles and Stanislaus County are the leaders of violating the three day rule. In those counties 14% of the cases determined to be in dire need of food had to wait pass the three days required by State Law. Stanislaus counties violated this law in 12% of their cases.

Table 1 describes county-by-county percentage of violations of the three day FS-ES issuance rule.

Table #1 - Percentage of applicants who right to FS-ES under 63-501.531 were violated by California Counties

Statewide	8%		
Mono	14%	Sacramento	1%
Los Angeles	14%	Tulare	1%
Stanislaus	12%	Solano	1%
Tehama	7%	Kern	1%
Nevada	7%	San Diego	1%
El Dorado	5%	Butte	1%
Fresno	4%	Del Norte	1%
Calaveras	4%	Ventura	1%
Inyo	4%	Madera	1%
San Mateo	4%	Placer	1%
San Joaquin	4%	Santa Barbara	1%
San Bernardino	3%	Humboldt	0%
Kings	3%	Sonoma	0%
Mariposa	3%	Monterey	0%
Riverside	2%	Alpine	0%
Shasta	2%	Colusa	0%
Alameda	2%	Glenn	0%
San Benito	2%	Imperial	0%
San Luis Obispo	2%	Merced	0%
Santa Clara	2%	Modoc	0%
Lake	2%	Napa	0%
Lassen	2%	Orange	0%
Sutter	2%	Plumas	0%
Yuba	2%	San Francisco	0%
Marin	2%	Sierra	0%
Santa Cruz	1%	Siskiyou	0%
Amador	1%	Trinity	0%
Contra Costa	1%	Tuolumne	0%
Mendocino	1%	Yolo	0%

63-301.5 Expedited Service

.51 Entitlement to Expedited Service

The following households, if otherwise eligible, are entitled to expedited service:

.511 Households with less than \$150 in monthly gross income as defined in Section 63-502.1 provided their liquid resources as defined in Section 63-501.11 do not exceed \$100;

.512 Migrant or seasonal farmworker households who are destitute as defined in Section 63-503.43 provided their liquid resources as defined in Section 63-501.11 do not exceed \$100; or

.513 Households whose combined monthly gross income and liquid resources are less than the household's monthly rent or mortgage, and utilities.

.52 Identifying Households Needing Expedited Service The CWD's application procedures shall be designed to identify households eligible for expedited service at the time the household files an application.

.521 A CWD employee or volunteer shall inform potential applicants orally of the right to expedited service for eligible households and how to initiate the process, the availability of assistance in filling out the application and shall be responsible for screening applications as they are filed. The CWD also shall advise individuals who inquire about the Food Stamp Program by telephone of the expedited service processing standards for eligible households. The CWD shall assist an applicant, upon request, in filling out forms and completing the application process.

.522 The screening shall consist of a review of the DFA 285-A1 or the SAWS 1 CA1/DFA 285-A1 if the applicant elected to complete the expedited service section. The CWD shall immediately forward the application for processing when

it is determined that the applicant is entitled to expedited service.

.523 Households being recertified or reapplying after less than a one-month break in certification shall be entitled to expedited service if determined eligible as specified in Section 63-301.51.

.53 Processing Standards

All households receiving expedited services, except those receiving expedited services during months in which allotments are suspended or cancelled shall have the case processed in accordance with the following regulations. Those households receiving expedited services during a suspension or cancellation shall have their cases processed in accordance with Sections 63-107.862 and .863.

.531 Expedited Service Households

(a) For households entitled to expedited service at initial application, the CWD shall make the authorization document, access device or coupons available to the recipient either by mail or for pickup at the household's request, no later than the third calendar day following the date the application was filed. For purposes of this section, a weekend (Saturday and Sunday) shall be considered one calendar day. However, if the third calendar day is a nonworking day when coupons cannot be issued, the CWD shall make coupons available on or before the working day immediately preceding the nonworking day. Whatever system a CWD uses to ensure meeting this delivery standard shall be designed to allow a reasonable opportunity for redemption of an authorization document or use of an access device no later than the third calendar day following the day the application was filed.

HANDBOOK BEGINS HERE

(1) For example, if the application is filed on Thursday, coupons must be made available to the households on Monday. However, if Monday is a holiday, coupons must be made available on Friday or Saturday if coupons are issued on that day.

HANDBOOK ENDS HERE

Counties	Statewide	273,960	130,492	48%	56,773	69,951	44%	54%	4,396	8%
	Applications Filed	Applications Considered for FS-ES	Percentage of Applications Considered for FS-ES	FS-ES Applications Approved	FS-ES Applications Denied	Percentage of FS-ES Applications Approved	Percentage of FS-ES Applications Denied	FS-ES Issued Late	Percentage of FS-ES Issued Late	
Alameda	10296	2,041	20%	1,722	319	84%	16%	37	2%	
Alpine	8	3	38%	0	3	0%	100%	0	0%	
Amador	254	82	32%	74	6	90%	7%	1	1%	
Butte	2542	734	29%	579	157	79%	21%	4	1%	
Calaveras	357	115	32%	100	15	87%	13%	4	4%	
Colusa	190	40	21%	27	13	68%	33%	0	0%	
Contra Costa	5634	1,953	35%	614	1,339	31%	69%	8	1%	
Del Norte	469	204	43%	161	44	79%	22%	1	1%	
El Dorado	698	141	20%	107	36	76%	26%	5	5%	
Fresno	11276	2,998	27%	2,371	643	79%	21%	104	4%	
Glenn	372	98	26%	91	7	93%	7%	0	0%	
Humboldt	1818	511	28%	426	85	83%	17%	2	0%	
Imperial	1576	31	2%	9	22	29%	71%	0	0%	
Inyo	182	57	31%	52	5	91%	9%	2	4%	
Kern	8026	4,490	56%	1,498	2,938	33%	65%	12	1%	
Kings	1585	572	36%	274	289	48%	51%	9	3%	
Lake	638	332	52%	260	60	78%	18%	5	2%	
Lassen	354	172	49%	56	114	33%	66%	1	2%	
Los Angeles	94015	68,334	73%	27,049	37,582	40%	55%	3,818	14%	
Madera	1587	263	17%	179	73	68%	28%	1	1%	
Marin	810	154	19%	129	18	84%	12%	2	2%	
Mariposa	152	42	28%	34	6	81%	14%	1	3%	
Mendocino	938	342	36%	307	30	90%	9%	4	1%	
Merced	786	272	35%	55	230	20%	85%	0	0%	
Modoc	136	1	1%	1	0	100%	0%	0	0%	
Mono	80	10	13%	7	2	70%	20%	1	14%	
Monterey	3288	992	30%	416	560	42%	56%	1	0%	
Napa	646	354	55%	108	245	31%	69%	0	0%	
Nevada	482	111	23%	76	25	68%	23%	5	7%	
Orange	9925	690	7%	600	89	87%	13%	0	0%	
Placer	1596	321	20%	198	123	62%	38%	1	1%	
Plumas	162	42	26%	26	14	62%	33%	0	0%	
Riverside	9350	3,869	41%	1,243	2,645	32%	68%	31	2%	
Sacramento	17299	3,192	18%	948	2,261	30%	71%	12	1%	
San Benito	296	108	36%	98	12	91%	11%	2	2%	
San Bernardino	16161	7,090	44%	5,611	1,479	79%	21%	193	3%	
San Diego	10530	7,993	76%	1,817	6,186	23%	77%	13	1%	
San Francisco	8626	4,290	50%	2,053	2,225	48%	52%	0	0%	
San Joaquin	5225	195	4%	160	30	82%	15%	6	4%	
San Luis Obispo	1600	612	38%	245	298	40%	49%	5	2%	
San Mateo	0	589	0%	577	11	98%	2%	22	4%	
Santa Barbara	3480	1,446	42%	398	1,047	28%	72%	2	1%	
Santa Clara	9799	5,454	56%	753	4,938	14%	91%	15	2%	
Santa Cruz	2448	1,470	60%	475	959	32%	65%	7	1%	
Shasta	1980	553	28%	436	90	79%	16%	10	2%	
Sierra	23	9	39%	9	0	100%	0%	0	0%	
Siskiyou	573	174	30%	136	36	78%	21%	0	0%	
Solano	3107	733	24%	698	35	95%	5%	7	1%	
Sonoma	2777	1,605	58%	1,055	562	66%	35%	3	0%	
Stanislaus	4030	206	5%	86	120	42%	58%	10	12%	
Sutter	911	229	25%	117	114	51%	50%	2	2%	
Tehama	782	422	54%	181	248	43%	59%	12	7%	
Trinity	155	50	32%	41	3	82%	6%	0	0%	
Tulare	6962	927	13%	597	338	64%	36%	6	1%	
Tuolumne	469	402	86%	132	265	33%	66%	0	0%	
Ventura	4399	1,335	30%	828	401	62%	30%	5	1%	
Yolo	1037	260	25%	218	42	84%	16%	0	0%	
Yuba	1063	777	73%	255	514	33%	66%	4	2%	