

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) CalFresh Program Guide

Deferrals and Substitute Programs

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Background:

Each work registrant will be screened to determine whether they will participate or be deferred from the Employment & Training (E&T) program. The following individuals will be deferred from participation in E&T:

- Participants in a substitute program as described in the policy below, and
- Veterans who have been honorably discharged from United States Armed Forces.

Policy:

63-902.1: Refugee Resettlement Agencies

The [Office of Refugee Resettlement \(ORR\)](#) provides new populations with opportunities to maximize their potential in the United States. The objective is to ensure that refugees become self-sufficient in the shortest time possible.

Refugees enrolled with Resettlement Agencies (RAs), formerly known as Voluntary Agencies (VolAgs), are deferred from E&T.

The RAs contract with the Department of State to provide services to refugees. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) [Resettlement Agencies](#) website has a current listing of RAs in California. As of 10/28/14 California Resettlement Agencies in San Diego County include:

- Alliance for African Assistance (AAA)
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Jewish Family Service of San Diego
- Kurdish Human Rights Watch
- La Maestra Legal Advocacy Services
- Wilson/Fish Project for Refugees

63-902.2: Substitute Program Participants

Refugees enrolled with RAs will be registered for E&T for statistical purposes and then deferred from participating.

63-902.3: Veteran Deferrals

Veterans who have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces are deferred from E&T. Deferred veterans may choose to *volunteer* to participate in E&T.

Deferred veterans will be provided with a referral to the local County Veterans Service Offices (VSOs). An updated list of VSOs by county can be found at www.cacvso.org.

Procedure:

Handling Substitute Programs:

If a participant fails without good cause to comply with the RAs requirements, he or she loses the deferral and must be registered for the E&T program.

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Handling Veteran Deferrals:

Verification of Honorable Discharge Status

- A completed DD 214 or other appropriate verification (The DD214 is the current form used by the military to prove separation from active duty); or
- A Statement of Service (SoS).

If the veteran is unable to provide verification of honorable discharge, they will be referred to the local VSO for assistance in securing the document. The veteran will be temporarily deferred from E&T participation until documentation is received that the verification of honorable discharge has been requested. Once the DD 214 or SoS confirming the Veteran was honorably discharged is received, the Veteran will be permanently deferred from E&T.

If the DD214 or SoS states that the Veteran was not honorably discharged, the temporary deferral will end. The Veteran will then be subject to E&T requirements unless otherwise exempt.

If the Veteran fails to provide the necessary verification within the 30 day time frame, the temporary deferral will end. The Veteran will then be subject to E&T participation requirements unless otherwise exempt.

Other Program Impacts:

No Impact

References:

[MPP 63.407](#)

[ACL 13-107](#)

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 09/30/2018

Release Date:

09/24/2015