

SNAP ABAWD Time Limit *Desk Guide*

The federal **Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit Rule** places a limit on how long certain individuals are eligible to participate in SNAP. Those considered “ABAWDs” may only receive SNAP benefits for a total of three full months, for the 36-month period beginning January 1, 2016, and ending December 31, 2018, unless they live in a waived area, meet an exemption, or are already meeting work requirements (see reverse).

Who is at risk?

SNAP recipients who:

- **are between 18 and 49 years old,**
- **are not disabled,**
- **do not have children under 18, and**
- **are not working at least 20 hours a week.**

Additional Resources

To find your local SNAP/HRA office:

Outside New York City, dial 800-342-3009

In New York City, dial 311

HungerSolutionsNY.org/ABAWD

This site houses an array of resources, including our SNAP ABAWD Time Limit Checklist, a webinar overview, powerpoint slides, policy updates, a medical statement template, and a client flyer.

Nutrition Outreach & Education Program (NOEP)

Clients who need additional assistance with SNAP or more information about SNAP time limits can be referred to their local NOEP Coordinator. To find a local NOEP Coordinator, go to FoodHelpNY.org.

How community organizations can help:

- **Share** this fact sheet with other service providers in your community. You can also find a flyer specifically for clients under Additional Resources.
- **Use** Hunger Solutions New York’s SNAP ABAWD Time Limit Checklist to determine if time limit rules apply (see Additional Resources).
- **Provide** individuals who are “unfit for work” with Hunger Solutions New York’s sample medical statement form, to be signed by an approved medical professional. (A list of approved medical professionals is provided on the form—see Additional Resources.)
- **Ensure** exempt individuals contact their SNAP office to provide information about their exempt status and help them gather the needed documentation.
- **Ensure** individuals subject to the work requirements contact their SNAP office to find out how they can meet these requirements and enroll in qualifying activities.
- **Mediate** with the SNAP office on behalf of clients wrongly denied benefits under the time limit rule.

over →



Prepared by Hunger Solutions New York; funded by NYSOTDA, USDA/FNS, FRAC, The Walmart Foundation, and MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FoodHelpNY.org
SummerMealsNY.org
SchoolMealsHubNY.org
AfterschoolMealsNY.org
HungerSolutionsNY.org  

Quick Facts: Waivers, Exemptions, and Work Requirements

Waivers

Individuals living in the following counties and jurisdictions in New York State have been waived from time limits through December 31, 2017:*

Counties

These counties have been waived in their entirety. Time limits do not apply to those living anywhere in these counties.

Bronx	Hamilton	Richmond
Broome	Herkimer	St. Lawrence
Clinton	Jefferson	Schoharie
Delaware	Kings	Schuyler
Essex	Lewis	Steuben
Franklin	Montgomery	Sullivan
Fulton	Orleans	
Greene	Oswego	

Jurisdictions

*These towns, cities, and districts have been waived.** Time limits do not apply to those living within these areas.*

TOWNS/CITIES	DISTRICTS
Buffalo	Upper Manhattan Community
Gates	Districts 9, 10, 11,
Elmira	and 12 (above West 110 th Street
Irondequoit	and East 96 th Street)
Jamestown	Queens Community District 12
Lockport	(zip codes 11412, 11433, 11436)
Niagara Falls	
Rochester	
Syracuse	<i>*New waiver list available January 2018</i>
Tonawanda	<i>**For more detailed information on</i>
Utica	<i>the addresses that fall into the waived</i>
	<i>areas, contact your local SNAP office.</i>

Exemptions

Time limits do not apply to individuals who meet any of the following:

- Under age 18 or 50 years or older
- Working 20 hours or more per week, including self-employment or in-kind work
- Receiving a disability-based benefit from a government or private source***
- Physically or mentally unable to work 20 hours a week
- Participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program and unable to work 20 hours per week
- Receiving/applied for unemployment benefits
- Attending high school
- Attending training or college at least half-time and meeting the student eligibility criteria to receive SNAP
- Living with a child under 18 who is part of the same SNAP household
- Pregnant—at any stage of pregnancy
- Caring for a person with a disability or a frail senior
- Living in a waived area

**** All individuals in receipt of VA disability compensation, regardless of the percentage, are exempt.*

Work Requirements

Individuals who do not meet any of the above exemptions can remain eligible for SNAP benefits past three months if they participate in a qualifying work activity and document the number of hours worked each month with their SNAP office. Qualifying work activities include:

- Working at least 20 hours/week, including working for goods or services, or volunteering

- Participating in an eligible work training program for at least 20 hours/week, including: job search activities under the Department of Labor's Job Zone, job readiness, skill training and educational activities
- Any combination of the above bullets for 80 hours/month, **or**
- Volunteering with a private or public non-profit organization to "work for benefits"