



14 Computer Drive East
Albany, NY 12205
518-436-8757 PH
518-458-6068 FAX
HungerSolutionsNY.org

SNAP Policy Update #2 16-17'

DATE: August 17, 2016

RE: SNAP Recipients Receiving VA Disability Are Exempt from ABAWD Time Limits

This policy update highlights information provided by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) through [GIS 16 TA/DC044](#). This GIS informs SNAP offices of a clarification from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding ABAWD time limits and individuals receiving Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation.

USDA has clarified with states that all individuals in receipt of VA disability compensation, regardless of the percentage, are exempt from the ABAWD time limit rule. The VA makes a determination about the severity of an individual's disability and assigns a percentage disability rating. USDA has informed states that they must accept receipt of the VA disability benefit as verification of an individual's inability to work. Many states, including NYS, were imposing an additional requirement of a 100% VA disability rating in order for a veteran to be exempt from the time limits. USDA does not allow this.

Although an individual is exempt from the ABAWD requirements based on the receipt of VA disability benefits, they still may be subject to SNAP work requirements. Anyone receiving a 100% VA disability is exempt from the work rules. Those with a VA disability rated below 100% must be evaluated to see if they meet any of the work requirement exemptions. For more information on the work requirements and exemptions, see our SNAP Prescreening Guide, linked below.

Any veteran receiving a VA disability who has been terminated from SNAP due to not meeting the ABAWD requirement should go to their local SNAP office and reapply for SNAP benefits immediately.

ABAWD Time Limit Tools and Resources for Community Organizations

For more information on the ABAWD Time Limit, visit HungerSolutionsNY.org/ABAWD. Available at that site is an array of tools and resources designed for community organizations working with SNAP recipients and applicants. The site includes a [checklist tool](#) to help determine if an individual is living in a waived area, exempt, or already meeting the work requirements under the time limit rule, and includes action steps for clients.

Links:

- [GIS 16 TA/DC044](#) – Clarification of ABAWD Status for SNAP Recipients Receiving Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation
- [USDA Policy](#) – ABAWD Time Limit Exemption for Veterans Disability Benefit Recipients
- [HSNY SNAP Prescreening Guide](#) – For more information on work rules and exemptions, see pages 27 – 29.
- Visit HungerSolutionsNY.org/ABAWD for an array of tools and resources including a checklist, template medical statement, webinar, articles and much more. Newest addition is an [updated client flier](#) in both English and Spanish.

Help for Your Clients

There are Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) Coordinators in many communities across NYS. NOEP Coordinators are available to help potentially eligible individuals and families apply for SNAP benefits by:

- conducting confidential pre-screenings to see if a family may be eligible for SNAP,
- assisting with completing the application, including the online version,
- answering any questions, and/or
- working with current recipients around recertification or other issues with their SNAP case.

NOEP Coordinators can also come to your community site to help your clients.

To find out if there is a NOEP Coordinator in your community, go to: <http://www.foodhelpny.org>.

Visit <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/dss.asp> for a listing of SNAP offices and contact information outside of NYC or call 1-800-342-3009.

Visit http://www.nyc.gov/html/hra/html/services/snap_centers.shtml for a listing of SNAP offices in New York City or call 311.

For More Information

If you have, any questions about this SNAP update or SNAP in general, please contact Dawn Secor via phone at (518) 436-8757 ext. 112, or by e-mailing dawn.secor@hungersolutionsny.org