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## SNAP Policy Update #2 17-18'

DATE: August 17, 2017

RE: Eligibility for Expedited SNAP Benefits for Certain Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)

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This policy update highlights information provided by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) through [GIS 17 TA/DC014](#). The OTDA policy directive provides information to SNAP offices concerning a clarification received from USDA/FNS around eligibility for expedited SNAP benefits for recipients determined to be an ABAWD who were previously deemed ineligible for SNAP for noncompliance with the time limit work rules.

### ABAWD Time Limit Rule Background

On January 1, 2016, NYS reinstated a federal rule that restricts SNAP recipients, determined by the SNAP office to be an ABAWD, to three full months of SNAP benefits in a 36-month period ending December 31, 2018, unless they live in a waived area, meet an exemption, or engage in qualifying work activities.

An ABAWD is defined by federal regulations as a person who is:

- 18 to 49 years old
- Childless (no dependent children under 18)
- Unemployed/underemployed: Less than 20 hours a week working or in job training activity
- Non-disabled (no documented disability that would preclude employment)

See our [SNAP Policy Update #1 17-18'](#) for a complete set of the criteria and regulations around the ABAWD Time Limit Rule.

### ABAWD Eligibility for Expedited Benefits

FNS has clarified that any person determined to be an ABAWD who has been deemed ineligible for SNAP due to noncompliance with the ABAWD Time Limit Rule and who is seeking to re-establish their eligibility by meeting one of the following conditions:

1. Complying with the work requirements,
2. Meeting an exemption from the rule, or
3. Living in a waived county or jurisdiction

but does not have documentation of the above condition, at the time of application for SNAP, must have such documents pending and can receive SNAP benefits under the expedited processing timeframes, provided they are otherwise eligible for an expedited benefit.

SNAP offices are directed to help the applicant obtain such documentation, if necessary, but the SNAP office cannot delay the issuance of expedited benefits if the pended documentation is not received before the end of the expedited processing period. In instances where the documentation is pended, the SNAP office should notify the applicant in writing and clearly state what documentation is required in order to receive ongoing SNAP benefits.

SNAP offices cannot issue ongoing SNAP benefits until the pended documentation has been received and it has been determined by the county that that the individual and any other household members are SNAP eligible.

If the pended documentation is not provided within the timeframe (a minimum of 10 days must be provided) given by the SNAP office, the individual will not be eligible for ongoing SNAP benefits. Additionally, if this same individual reapplies, the documentation that was previously requested and not provided cannot be pended again unless the documentation is no longer required, as determined by the SNAP office.

### **Attachments and Links**

- [GIS 17 TA/DC014](#) – Eligibility for Expedited SNAP Benefits for Certain Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents
- [17 - ADM - 01](#) – Requirements for ABAWDs

### **Hunger Solution New York's Tools and Resources**

- [SNAP ABAWD Time Limit Webpage](#)
- [SNAP in NYS: An Eligibility Prescreening Guide](#) – for information on Expedited Processing see pages 19-21.
- [SNAP Policy Update #1 17-18'](#) - Requirements for SNAP Time Limits for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)

### **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 on 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](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](mailto:dawn.secor@hungersolutionsny.org).