



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

SNAP Policy Update #9 16-17'

DATE: January 27, 2017

RE: Re-establishing Eligibility for ABAWDs and Grace Period

This policy update highlights information provided by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) through [GIS 16 TA/DC056](#). This directive provides information to SNAP offices concerning a three-month grace period of SNAP eligibility for individuals required to meet the Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit rule.

This SNAP policy update provides the following information:

- Background on the ABAWD Time Limit Waiver
- Re-establishing Eligibility for ABAWDs
- ABAWD Grace Period

Background

On January 1, 2016, NYS reinstated a rule that restricts unemployed, childless adults to three months of SNAP benefits in a 36-month period ending December 31, 2018, unless they meet strict work rules, are exempt, or live in waived area. For more information on this rule and for tools that community agencies can use when helping this population, please see our [SNAP ABAWD Time Limit Webpage](#). It is important that community agencies help individuals identified by the SNAP office as an ABAWD to understand this rule, including who is exempt from it, so that eligible people do not lose their SNAP benefits.

When a person is determined to be an ABAWD, they must meet strict work requirements in order to keep their SNAP benefits for more than three months. The SNAP office will track work activities each month to ensure ABAWDs are complying and to keep a count of any months that an individual did not comply.

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 activities for 80 hours/month, or
- ✓ Volunteering with a private or public non-profit organization to "work for benefits"

If at any time a person becomes exempt from the time limit rules or resides in a waived area, then they are no longer considered an ABAWD and the above work requirements do not apply to them.

For more information, see our updated [ABAWD Time Limit Desk Guide and Checklist](#).

Re-establishing Eligibility for ABAWDs

When a person determined to be an ABAWD does not meet ABAWD work requirements for three months in the 36-month period that started January 1, 2016, they will lose their SNAP benefits. These individuals can have their SNAP benefits restored at any time by re-establishing their eligibility through one of the methods below:

- ✓ 80 hours of participation in ABAWD qualifying work activities in a 30-day period
- ✓ 30-day job search followed by a work experience assignment or “working for benefits” through a volunteer/community service assignment at a private or public non-profit agency
- ✓ For applicants – complying with the work requirements within the 30-day period from the date of application
- ✓ For current recipients – complying with the work requirements in the following 30-day period

ABAWD Grace Period

An individual determined to be an ABAWD, who re-establishes their eligibility through one of the methods above during a consecutive 30-day period and then loses a job or is otherwise not meeting the work requirement, will be granted an additional one-time consecutive three-month period of eligibility referred to as the grace period.

This grace period will occur during the same 36-month period as the initial three-month period granted to all ABAWDs. The 36-month period started January 1, 2016 and ends December 31, 2018. The grace period begins in the month that an ABAWD, who has re-established their eligibility for SNAP, is no longer meeting the work requirement. The three months granted for the grace period must be used consecutively, unlike the initial three months of eligibility granted to all ABAWDs. Once started, the grace period continues for three full months, whether or not the individual starts to comply with the work requirements again or is no longer receiving SNAP.

Attachments and Links

- [GIS 16 TA/DC056 – Grace Period for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents \(ABAWD\) Who Reestablish SNAP Eligibility by Meeting the ABAWD Requirement](#)

Hunger Solution New York’s Tools and Resources

- [SNAP ABAWD Time Limit Webpage](#)

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 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.