



Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)

Frequently Asked Questions

ESA SNAP Customers

December 9, 2019

1. What SNAP customers may face ABAWD work requirements?

ABAWD – stands for able-bodied adults without dependents. A SNAP customer who has to meet the ABAWD work requirements:

- Is between the ages of 18 and 49;
- Does not have anyone under age 18 living with them;
- Has no medical or physical barriers to employment; or
- Is not pregnant

SNAP customers subject to the ABAWD rule face time limits for benefit receipt unless they meet work requirements each month or are deemed exempt.

2. Why is the District implementing SNAP ABAWD work requirements/time limits?

The District is making changes to SNAP (Food Stamps) because of a rule from the Federal government that requires some SNAP customers to meet work requirements. These customers will have to work or participate in a work-related activity for a certain number of hours in order to continue receiving SNAP benefits. Customers who do not meet the work requirements can only receive SNAP benefits for 3 months in a 3-year time period, unless they are exempt from work requirements.

3. When will the District implement SNAP ABAWD work requirements/time limits?

Under FNS's new federal regulations, the District will be required to impose 3-month time limits on some SNAP customers, unless they meet strict ABAWD work requirements. Based on changes specified under the new federal regulations, it is unlikely the District will be eligible for a waiver in the future. FNS has granted the District a short-term extension of our existing ABAWD waiver through March 31, 2020. On April 1, FNS expects the District to implement the ABAWD work requirements.

DHS will send you a notification in early 2020 with more details on when these changes will be effective.

4. What is the ABAWD time limit?

SNAP customers who have to meet the ABAWD work requirements can get SNAP for up to 3 full months in a 36-month period (3 years) if they do not meet certain work requirements. This is called the ABAWD time limit. If you are a customer who has to meet the ABAWD work requirements and are **not** working, in school, job training, or volunteering for at least 20 hours per week or 80 hours per month on average, you can only receive SNAP benefits for up to 3 full months in a 36-month period.

5. What is the ABAWD work requirement?

The ABAWD time limit rules require SNAP customers who are subject to the ABAWD rule to work or participate in a qualifying work activity for at least 20 hours per week or 80 hours per month on average. Outside of working at a job, qualifying activities include going to school or a job training program, participating in SNAP Employment & Training, or doing volunteer or community service work.

6. How do I know if I am exempt from the ABAWD work requirements/time limits?

DHS will provide more details about who is exempt from the ABAWD time limit in early 2020. In general, you may be exempt from the ABAWD work requirements/time limits if you are under age 18 or over age 49, getting disability benefits or unemployment benefits, going to school at least half-time, are pregnant, have a medical or physical barrier to employment, and/or are living with someone under age 18.

7. If I am subject to the ABAWD work requirements/time limits, will it change the amount of my SNAP benefits?

No, having to meet the ABAWD work requirements does **not** change the amount of your SNAP benefits.

8. When will more information be provided?

DHS will provide you with more details about the ABAWD requirements in early 2020.