The ABAWD time limit

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Welcome!

Webinar Logistics
Webinar will be recorded and will be part of a CalFresh Outreach ABAWD toolkit

Got Questions?
Type them in the question pane on your control panel
1. **Overview**: Why does this matter?
2. **ABAWD basics**: What should I know?
3. **Outreach toolkit**: What resources do I have?
4. **Q&A**
1.

OVERVIEW

Why does this matter?
Who is subject to the Three-Month Time Limit? Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents

Definition
- Between 18 and 49 years old
- Not disabled
- Not living with children
- Not otherwise “exempt”

Characteristics
- **Very poor** with average income under 20% of FPL
- Not eligible for many other public benefits (CalFresh may be the only assistance they get)
- Ohio Association of Food Banks Report:
  - 1 in 3 face significant barriers to employment (language, undiagnosed mental health issues, criminal record)
  - Requires individual assessment of situation, barriers, and skills
With the loss of CA’s statewide ABAWD waiver, people with ABAWD status are only eligible for benefits for three full months out of a 36 month period unless they are exempt or meet the work requirement.
Other States Have Struggled to Implement the Rule

- Unable to identify ABAWDs early enough or accurately.
- Not all work, training and exemptions are captured.
- Peoples’ circumstances change.
- Individuals must self-assess and obtain verification.
- Few qualifying activities are available.
- Notices and forms are confusing and inaccurate.
- Bottom line: Eligible individuals lose SNAP, often without knowing what happened.
Caseloads declined drastically in states where time limit newly imposed
Outreach workers will play an important role in helping people maintain and access CalFresh benefits
Key Issues for Application Assisters

- Knowing County waiver status
- Supporting Effective County Screening
- Identifying ABAWDs Prior & Post
- Helping ABAWDs Keep or Restore Benefits
- Informing the Community
Outreach workers can decrease stigma and help people self-identify by being mindful of the words they use.

**Words Matter**

**People first language is the standard**

**Words/phrases to avoid**
- ABAWDs
- Unfit for work

**Preferred words/phrases**
- People with ABAWD status
- Unable to work 80 hours per month
Informing and Educating Clients
Outreach Partners Can Help Identify Exempt Clients
Special Outreach to Medical Providers

Provider Network Fax Blast  
Monday, December 21, 2015

Provider Notification
You Can Help Low-Income Single Adults  
Keep their Food Benefits

SNAP benefits (formerly food stamps) allow low-income people to buy the food they need to stay healthy. Many patients and CeltiCare Health members (single adults ages 18-50) are considered Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). They are at risk of losing their SNAP benefits (food stamps) because of a reinstated federal rule that goes into effect on January 1, 2016. The rule limits SNAP benefits to 3 months in a 3 year period - unless your patient meets an exemption or certain work rules.

With just a few minutes of your time, we can easily help. Many ABAWDs may be homeless, lacking regular health care, disabled or unable to work. If you are working with a patient who fits this description, you can easily help him or her in the following ways:

- If the patient is homeless, you can help the patient call the Department of Transitional Assistance...
New time limits may affect you. Connect with your County CalFresh office to learn more.

• Connect with County to learn if the time limits affect you

Report exemptions

• Connect with County to report if you meet an exemption

You can still fix things in December 2018

• If you do nothing your benefits may be affected at the beginning of December, but you can still restore benefits by connecting with your County to report an exemption or to meet work requirements (counting months can be removed)
2.

ABAWD BASICS

What should I know?
Who has ABAWD status?

A person between the ages of 18 – 49, receiving CalFresh but not CalWORKs, who is able-bodied and not living with a minor.

An adult with ABAWD status may or may not have a time limit.
1. All counties must identify CalFresh recipients with ABAWD status and report it to CDSS.

2. In certain counties adults with ABAWD status will have to meet the work requirement OR an exemption to be able to receive CalFresh for more than three months in a three year time period.
Exemptions

1. Living in an area with a geographic waiver

2. Pregnancy (any trimester)

3. Participating in an Office of Refugee Resettlement Training Program

4. Physically or mentally unable to work for 80 hours a month (subcategories apply)

5. Exempt from CalFresh work registration requirements (subcategories apply)
Exemptions continued:

Physically or mentally unable to work for 80 hours a month

1. Applied/receiving temporary or permanent public or private disability benefits
2. Obviously unable to work based on eligibility worker observation/judgement
3. Medically certified as unable to work for 80 hours a month
4. Determined unable to work after a screening and finding of chronic homelessness
5. Determined unable to work after a screening and finding that they have a alcohol or drug addiction
6. Determined unable to work after a screening and finding that they are escaping domestic violence
Exemptions continued:

Exempt from CalFresh work registration requirements

1. Responsible for taking care of an incapacitated person

2. Applied for or receiving unemployment insurance benefits

3. Receiving weekly earnings (from a job or self-employment) equal to or greater than the federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours

4. Migrant or seasonal farm workers to begin work in the next 30 days, who will work 30hrs/week OR earn the equivalent to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours

5. Enrolled in school, training program or institution of higher education on at least a half time basis
The 15% Exemption

- States receive a number of “individual exemptions” equal to 15 percent of the statewide caseload with ABAWD status, therefore referred to as the “15 percent exemption.”

- Each 15% exemption = 1 month of CalFresh benefits for 1 adult with ABAWD status.

- CDSS informs each county how many of these exemptions each county has via an annual All County Information Notice (ACIN).

- CDSS suggested uses include:
  - Overissuance protection
  - Individual falls short of meeting work requirement
  - Individual is re-entering the community from prison/jail or has a criminal record
  - Dependent child turning 18
  - Seasonally employed
Work Requirement: 3 options

Work
Employment, self-employment, in-kind work

Work activities
Community service, some E & T components, programs under WIOA and the Trade Act

Workfare
Number of hours required based on CalFresh benefit amount
3. OUTREACH TOOLKIT

What resources are available?
ABAWD Outreach Toolkit Components

Tools

1. Guidebook
2. Talk points for outreach workers
3. Flowchart to determine if time limit applies
4. Paper screener to help determine ABAWD status and time limit
5. Excel screener
6. Verifications chart
7. Client form to collect information necessary to determine ABAWD status
8. Client FAQs
9. Application assistance receipt
10. ABAWD webinar (recording)
Q&A