SNAP/FAP ABAWD Time Limit Desk Guide

The federal Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit Rule places a limit on how long certain individuals are eligible to participate in SNAP (known as Food Assistance Program (FAP) in Michigan). Those considered “ABAWDs” may only receive SNAP benefits for a total of three full months, for the 36-month period beginning January 1, 2018, and ending December 31, 2020, unless they live in a waived area, meet an exemption, or are already meeting work requirements (see reverse).

Who is at risk?

SNAP recipients who:

- are between 18 and 49 years old,
- are not disabled, and are able to work,
- do not have children under 18, and
- are living in Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Grand Traverse, Kalamazoo, Livingston

Additional Resources

To find your local DHHS office:
www.michigan.gov/ContactMDHHS

foodgatherers.org/ABAWD

This site houses an array of resources, including our SNAP ABAWD Time Limit Checklist, policy updates, a medical statement template, DHHS communications and a client flyer.

How community organizations can help:

- **Share** this fact sheet with other service providers in your community. You can also find a flyer specifically for clients under Additional Resources.
- **Use** the SNAP ABAWD Time Limit Checklist to determine if time limit rules apply (see Additional Resources).
- **Provide** individuals who are “unfit for work” with the sample medical statement form, to be signed by an approved medical professional. If a client is chronically homeless, provide them with the Chronic Homeless Verification Form.
- **Ensure** exempt individuals contact their DHHS office to provide information about their exempt status and help them gather the needed documentation.
- **Ensure** individuals subject to the work requirements contact their DHHS office to find out how they can meet these requirements and enroll in qualifying activities.
- **Mediate** with the SNAP office on behalf of clients wrongly denied benefits under the time limit rule, or refer clients to a legal services organization.

Prepared by Food Bank Council of Michigan and Food Gatherers, with information from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. This institution is an equal opportunity employer.
Quick Facts: Waivers, Exemptions, and Work Requirements

Waivers

Individuals living in the following counties and jurisdictions in Michigan have been waived from time limits through June 30, 2018:*  

Counties  *New waiver list expected July 2018  
These counties have been waived in their entirety. Time limits do not apply to those living anywhere in these counties.

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Exemptions

Time limits do not apply to individuals who meet any of the following:

- Under age 18 or 50 years or older
- Working 20 hours or more per week, including self-employment or in-kind work
- Receiving retirement, survivors and disability insurance due to disability or blindness, or receives Supplemental Security Income or State Disability Assistance
- Physically or mentally unable to work, including those who are chronically homeless
- Participating in an in-patient or outpatient drug or alcohol treatment program
- Receiving or applied for unemployment benefits
- Attending training or college at least half-time and meeting the student eligibility criteria to receive food assistance
- Living with a child under 18 who is part of the same SNAP household
- Are a current victim of domestic violence
- Pregnant—at any stage of pregnancy
- Caring for a person with a disability or a child under age 6

Work Requirements

Individuals who do not meet any of the above exemptions can remain eligible for SNAP benefits past three months if they participate in a qualifying work activity and document the number of hours worked each month with their DHHS caseworker. Qualifying work activities include:

- Work an average of at least 20 hours per week each month in unsubsidized employment.
- Participate 20 hours per week in an approved employment and training program, averaged monthly.
- Participate in community service by volunteering at a nonprofit organization*

*Nonprofit volunteer hours are determined by dividing the individual’s household monthly food assistance benefit by Michigan’s minimum wage ($9.25 as of 1/1/18)