



FEB 25 2009

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

Subject: SNAP -- Statewide Able Bodied Adults Without Dependent (ABAWD)
Waivers Effective Immediately for Eligible States

To: All Regional Directors
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The recently-enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), which was signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, suspends restrictions on Able Bodied Adults Without Dependent (ABAWD) participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as of April 1, 2009 continuing through September 30, 2010, unless State agencies choose to impose specific work requirements. States may already qualify for a statewide waiver of ABAWD restrictions prior to the ARRA effective date, based on the State's eligibility for extended unemployment benefits as indicated by the Department of Labor's Trigger Notices. To receive such a waiver, a State must submit a request and receive approval by FNS.

In order to allow State agencies to better meet the needs of unemployed people during the economic downturn and to allow greater flexibility in implementing the ARRA provision, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is allowing all States who meet the criteria for Statewide waivers to implement this policy effective immediately. The most recent DOL Trigger Notice No. 2009-6, effective February 22, 2009, indicates that 35 States or geographic areas are "ON" the Trigger Notice:

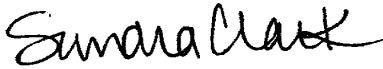
Alabama, Alaska*, Arizona*, Arkansas, California*, Connecticut, District of Columbia*, Florida, Georgia*, Idaho, Illinois*, Indiana, Kentucky*, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan*, Minnesota*, Mississippi*, Missouri*, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina*, Ohio*, Oregon*, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island*, South Carolina*, Tennessee, Vermont, Virgin Islands*, Washington, Wisconsin.

Of the above States, 17 have current FNS-approved statewide waivers (denoted by *). The remaining States may lift restrictions as provided for in the ARRA effective immediately without requesting an FNS-approved waiver in advance, although State agencies must notify their FNS Regional Office of the effective date of statewide implementation. FNS recognizes that implementation of changes in ABAWD policy requires operational and system changes and may take longer in some States than in others. For some State agencies, it may not be feasible to make this change prior to the ARRA effective date. However, for those State agencies that are able to do so, this policy allows greater flexibility.

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All Regional Directors
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If you have any questions, please contact me or Sandra Clark, Certification Policy Branch Chief, at (703) 305-2495 or by email at Sandy.Clark@fns.usda.gov.



Arthur T. Foley
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Attachment