

# ABAWD Policy Training

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UNDERSTANDING THE NEW SNAP TIME LIMIT AND ITS IMPACT IN MARYLAND  
MARYLAND HUNGER SOLUTIONS AND  
MANNA FOOD CENTER, FEB 4, 2016

# Training Overview

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- National Overview of ABAWD Policy
- Definitions, Criteria and Eligible Exemptions for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs)
- The impact in Maryland
- Opportunities for outreach and assistance

# A National Overview of the SNAP Time Limit

Able-Bodied Adults  
Without Dependents  
(ABAWDs).

Eligibility for SNAP is  
limited to 3 months in  
a 36 month period.

- The 3 month SNAP time limit emerges from the Welfare Reform Act of 1996
- Since the 1990s, most states have granted partial or statewide waivers from the time limit in areas of high unemployment
- As unemployment falls, many state waivers are expiring, causing states to reimplement the time limit
- In 2016, over 40 states will reimplement the SNAP time limit
- Maryland's statewide waiver expired January 1st, 2016 with an estimated 15,000 individuals impacted by the change.

# Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)

## Definitions and Criteria

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). Eligibility for SNAP is limited to 3 months in a 36 month period.

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents meet the following criteria:

- Age 18-50
- Able to Work
- Not living with a dependent child under the age of 18

# Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) - Eligible Exemptions

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- Under age 16 or over age 50
- Living with a child under age 18.
- Caring for a disabled person.
- Homeless, “doubled up,” or don’t have a regular and adequate nighttime residence.
- Women who are pregnant.
- Participating in a drug or alcohol treatment or rehabilitation program.
- Enrolled in school or vocational training at least half time.
- Participating in combination of volunteering, work search activities, employment, and/or schooling for a total of at least 20 hours per week (average of 80 hours per month).
- Have applied for or receiving unemployment compensation.

# The Impact in Maryland

An estimated 15,000 Marylanders will be impacted in jurisdictions, including:

- Anne Arundel County
- Baltimore County
- Carroll County
- Howard County
- Montgomery County
- Prince George's County

The following areas are exempt from the time limit:

- Allegany County
- Baltimore City
- Eastern Shore
- Garrett County
- Southern Maryland

# Helping Marylanders Maintain their Benefits

Identifying eligible  
exemptions and  
approved work  
activities

As of April 1, 2016, an estimated 15,000 Marylanders are at risk of losing their SNAP benefits if they are not identified as either exempt from the requirements or participating in an approved work activity.

To meet the ABAWD work requirement, an individual must:

- Work 20 hours a week averaged monthly (80 hrs)
- Participate in a work training program for at least 20 hours a week
- Participate in workfare
- Job search activities as well as volunteer hours count towards an individual's hourly requirements

## Take Action

Opportunities for outreach

Opportunities to assist clients potentially identified as ABAWDs:

- Receive training to conduct FSP Outreach
- Identify eligible exemptions
- Conduct pre-screenings to identify clients as potential ABAWDs
- Assist individuals in accessing work and volunteer activities
- Assist clients in logging approved work activities volunteer



Questions? For more information  
contact:

Rachel Tucker

Anti-Hunger Program Associate

Maryland Hunger Solutions

[rtucker@mdhungersolutions.org](mailto:rtucker@mdhungersolutions.org)

Phone: 410-528-0021 x23