

# The Return of SNAP's Time Limit: It's California Time

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# Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents: The Rule

- Benefits are limited to 3 full months per 3 year period to an individual.
- Unless the individual:
  - works an average of 20 hours a week, or 80 hours a month
  - is in a qualifying job slot 80 hours a month or doing workfare, or
  - meets one of the limited exemptions, or
  - lives in a waived area.

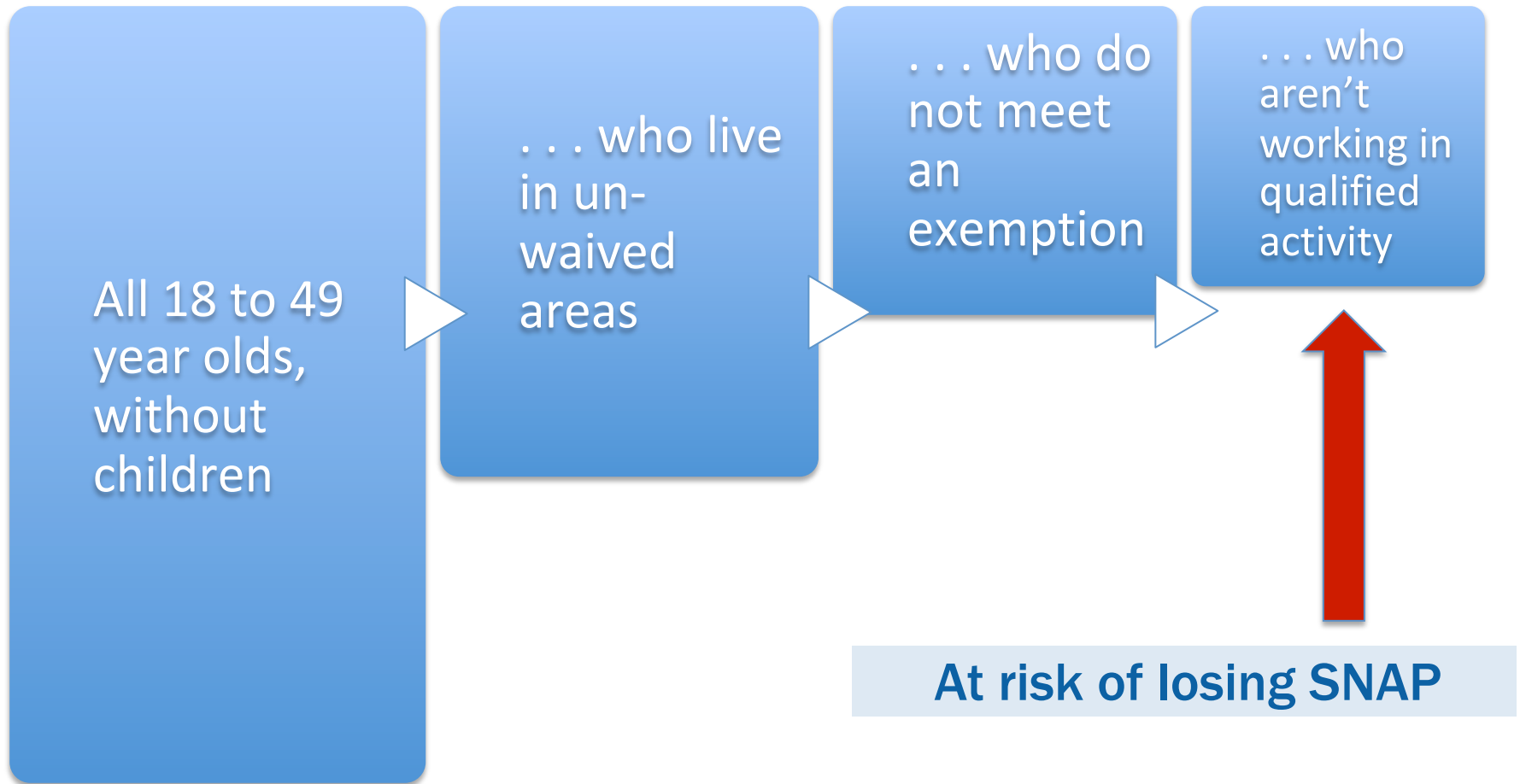


# Who is Exempt from the Rule?

- Under 18 or 50 years old or older
- Working at least 80 hours a month
- Residing in household with child under 18
- Pregnant
- Physically or mentally unfit for work
- Caring for an incapacitated person
- Receiving or applying for unemployment
- Regular participant in drug or alcohol treatment
- Eligible student



# Implementing the Time Limit



## States Struggle 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.

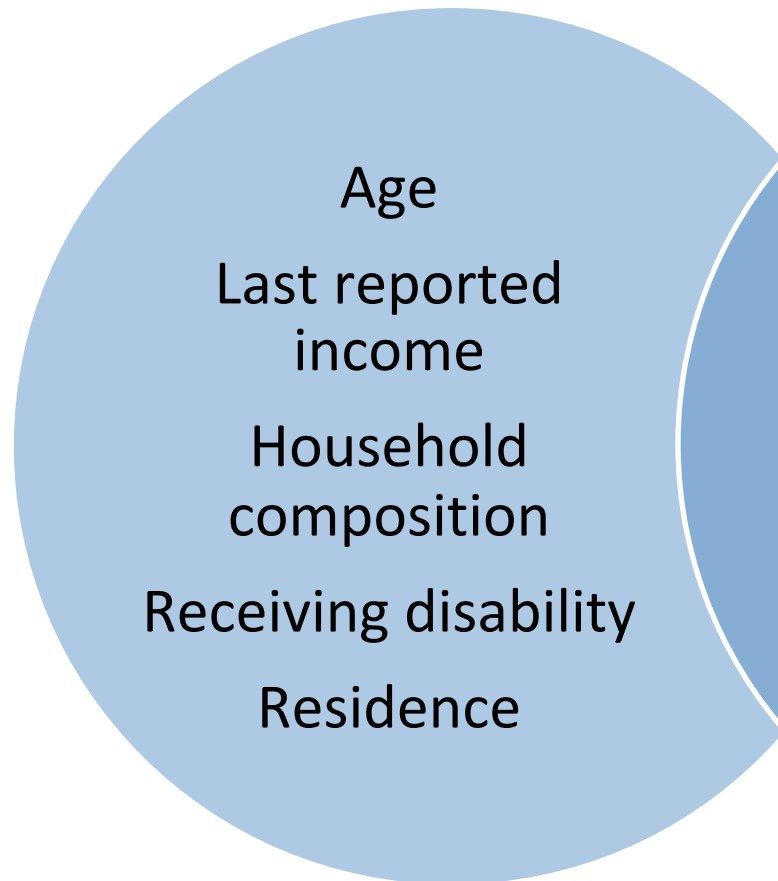
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Bottom line: Eligible individuals lose SNAP, often without knowing what happened.



# Identifying ABAWDs Can Be Difficult

What the state  
likely knows



Age

Last reported  
income

Household  
composition

Receiving disability

Residence

What the  
state must  
investigate

Hours worked?

Participating in  
qualifying activity?

Unfit for work?

Pregnant?

Otherwise exempt?

Any changes since  
last report?



# Policy Issues

- How is “physically or mentally unfit for work” determined?
- Is chronic homelessness a criteria for “unfit for work”?
- Is good cause determined prior to counting a month?
- Is all work activity counted?
- Are individualized exemptions used?



# Clear and Timely Informational Notices

## Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents

### WORK REQUIREMENTS

#### What YOU Need to Know



The federal work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) go into effect on January 1, 2016 in Massachusetts. Able-bodied individuals may only receive SNAP benefits for up to three months within 36 months without meeting the work requirements.

**ABAWDs are able-bodied individuals between the ages of 18 and 50 who have no dependents living with them.**

**An individual is exempt from meeting the work requirement if he or she:**

- Works 30 or more hours per week or is earning more than \$217.50 per week, averaged monthly
- Is medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment. (Note: The ABAWD Work Program Requirement Medical Report must be completed by a competent medical authority.)
- Is an unemployment applicant or recipient
- Participates in a drug or alcohol treatment and rehab program
- Is a student enrolled at least 1/2 time in a recognized school or training program
- Cares for an incapacitated person
- Is pregnant
- Lives in a waived area. For a list of waived areas visit [www.mass.gov/dta](http://www.mass.gov/dta)
- Lives with any minor in the home & in the SNAP household (does not have to be your own child)



USDA  
Supplemental  
Nutrition  
Assistance  
Program



Putting Healthy Food Within Reach

- Identify if rule applies to individual.
- Explain how to comply or demonstrate exempt.
- List all exemptions.
- Explain consequences of failing to comply.
- Explain reporting requirements.
- Provide contact information.





## **Community Groups Are Essential!**

- Ensure the state doesn't miss an exemption
- Help inform the state on policy and practices
- Train application assisters and community members
- Help connect to food assistance and other resources
- Document, inform and engage!



# Informing and Educating Clients

**URGENT**

**MANHATTAN RESIDENTS:  
ARE YOU 18-49 YEARS OF AGE?  
YOUR SNAP BENEFITS MAY HAVE TIME LIMITS!**

Starting **April 1<sup>st</sup>** many unemployed New Yorkers living on or below West 110th or East 96th Street will lose their SNAP Benefits



**YOU MAY BE EXEMPT IF YOU ARE:**

**ATTENTION!**

**Rules for the Food Supplement Program (FSP/SNAP, formerly food stamps), which helps low-income Marylanders buy food, have changed effective January 1, 2016**

Under federal law, "able bodied adults without dependents" (ABAWDs) can only get FSP benefits for a **maximum of 3 months** in a 3 year period unless they are exempt or participating in an approved work activity.

People that may be affected are:

- Living in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, \*Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's and \*Washington Counties

- Between the ages of 18-49

## SNAP 3-Month Time Limit: What You Need to Know

Beginning January 1, 2016, the federal SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) went back into effect in Pennsylvania. The time limit does not apply to many counties in Pennsylvania.

As of January 1, 2016, an ABAWD can only get 3 full months of SNAP in a 36-month period—unless s/he lives in a **waived part of PA**, meets an **exemption**, or is meeting certain hours in **qualifying work activities**. To see a list of waived areas in Pennsylvania, visit <https://clsphila.org/abawds>.

If you are getting letters from the Department of Human Services (DHS) about ABAWD requirements, check below to see if you can be found exempt or, if not, how to meet the work requirements. Follow the **Action** item to make sure you can keep your SNAP benefits.

### Who is exempt?

3-month SNAP limit does not apply if you meet any of the following:



# Community Groups Can Help Identify Exempt Clients

## SNAP ABAWD Time Limit Checklist

The federal SNAP time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) went back into effect January 1, 2016 in Massachusetts. An ABAWD is someone between the ages of 18 and 49 who is not disabled, pregnant or living with minor children.

An ABAWD can only get 3 full months of SNAP in a 36-month period—unless s/he lives in a **waived part of MA**, meets an **exemption**, or is meeting certain hours in **qualifying work activities**.

If a SNAP recipient is getting letters from DTA about ABAWD requirements, check below to see if they are exempt or, if not, how to meet the work requirements. Follow the corresponding Client Action item to make sure SNAP benefits will not be interrupted.

### Exemptions

#### Under age 18 or 50 and older

**CLIENT ACTION** → DTA has already exempted ABAWDs based on age. DTA should know when people turn 50 and become exempt. If you turn 50, call DTA to keep your SNAP or to get back on.

#### Physically or mentally unable to work 20 hours per week

Many ABAWDs are not actually “able-bodied,” but DTA may not know if the person does not get a disability benefit. An ABAWD can be exempt from the three month time limit if s/he has a physical or mental condition that “*reduces their ability to work.*” Being determined to be unfit for work has a much lower standard of unfitness than SSI and does not require a specific diagnosis or submission of medical test results.

**CLIENT ACTION** → Have a health care provider fill out DTA’s **ABAWD medical report form**. It can be signed by many health care providers, including:

- Doctor, doctor’s assistant or representative of a doctor’s office
- Nurse practitioner
- Licensed or certified psychologist
- Licensed social worker
- Osteopath
- Certified mental health counselor
- Certified midwife



# Special Outreach to Medical Providers

Provider Network Fax Blast  
Monday, December 21, 2015



**celticare health**<sup>™</sup>

200 West Street, Suite 250  
Waltham, MA 02451

*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



# Self-Initiated Community Service



Mail or fax this form to your local County Assistance Office.

## Community Service | Volunteer Verification Form

**INSTRUCTIONS: Please mail or FAX the completed form within 10 days of receipt to the office listed above.**

See reverse for detailed directions. Questions? Call the Statewide Customer Service Center 1-877-395-8930

### SECTION I. Volunteer | Agency Information

Name of Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 SSN \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address of Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address of Agency \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION II. Community Service Activity Information

Start Date of Service	MM-DD-YYYY	Expected End Date of Service*	MM-DD-YYYY	Transportation Provided by Agency at No Cost?	YES	NO
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Monthly Schedule of Service								
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	Estimated Weekly Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
<b>Total Monthly Estimated Hours</b>								

#### Monthly Schedule Instructions

(Circle one)

1. Mark an 'X' on the expected days of service.
2. Enter the total weekly hours in the Estimated Weekly Hours column.
3. Total the monthly estimated hours.

Description of Tasks Performed:

### SECTION III. Agency Certification

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY CERTIFICATION:

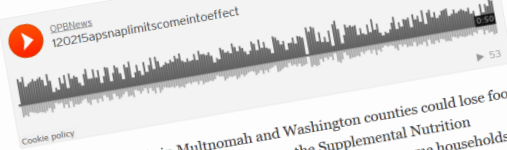
I hereby certify that our organization is a nonprofit with 501(C) (3) or 501(C) (4) status and the above named volunteer is registered with our agency to complete community service for the hours and period as indicated above. I understand that this community service verification form is used to verify up to six months of community service participation. I also understand that our agency must report any changes in participation to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services within 10 days from the date the change occurred.



# Your Work Can Shape Coverage

## SNAP Benefits To Run Dry For Some In Multnomah, Washington Counties

by Amanda Peacher (Follow) (PFI) | Dec. 2, 2015 1:36 p.m. | Updated: Dec. 2, 2015 5:46 p.m.



Thousands of people in Multnomah and Washington counties could lose food stamp benefits starting in 2016. Limits to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits will take effect for some households early next year.

Normally, people who are unemployed for a maximum of three months, the federal government says, or SNAP, benefits will take effect for some households early next year.

## Thousands in metro area no longer eligible for food stamps

by: Sophia Choi Updated: Jun 7, 2016 - 6:48 PM

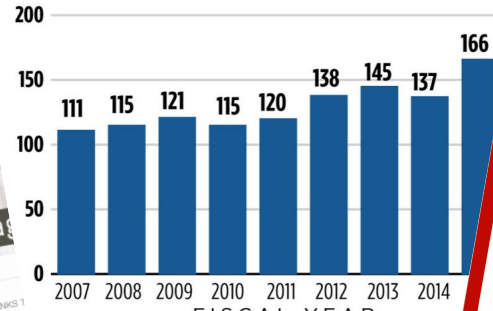


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COBB COUNTY, Ga. - Thousands of Georgians are now going without food stamps because of new

## Food pantry demand grows

Between 2007 and 2015, the average number of food boxes Preble Street delivers at its pantry jumped 50 percent, from an average of 111 a week to 166.



## VIDEO: LESS MONEY FOR FOOD AND MORE NEED FOR GROCERIES

By: Jory Tally

Submitted: 04/05/2016 - 9:31pm

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AMORY, Miss. (WCBT) — When the new SNAP rules came out, the Amory Food Pantry had a feeling they would be adding more customers to the thousands that they already supply food for.

"We've been afraid that it will increase the need, which of course means more money for us, more groceries for us, just a larger influx of clientele, but it's really a little too soon to tell, and there are still clients that don't know how it's going to affect them."

## Rule to affect 2,800 food stamp recipients

Requires work for some adults; takes effect July 1

By Bob Shiles - bshiles@civitasmedia.com



LUMBERTON — Almost 3,000 food-stamp recipients in Robeson County will either have to do some work or get job training in order to continue to receive that benefit.

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But they are getting a six-month reprieve on the deadline to do so. Gov. Pat McCrory last week signed a bill that requires able-bodied adults without dependent children to work to receive food stamps, get job training or some combination of the two.

rights, the program manager overseeing nutrition at the Robeson County Department of Social said the state estimates that about 2,814 of the 3,000 food stamp recipients will be affected. Robeson County receives about \$6.5 million of food stamps, or \$66 million a year. The benefit comes out to about \$36 worth of food per person each month.



# Resources

- Time Limit page:  
<http://www.buildingbetterprograms.org/category/programs/snap-time-limits/>
- Hunger Solutions NY:  
[http://hungersolutionsny.org/abawd?mc\\_cid=4f6e838c5c&mc\\_eid=2d37532a53](http://hungersolutionsny.org/abawd?mc_cid=4f6e838c5c&mc_eid=2d37532a53)
- Food Bank of NY City:  
<http://www.foodbanknyc.org/news/support-new-yorkers-at-risk-of-losing-snap-benefits>
- Massachusetts Law Reform: <http://www.masslegalservices.org/ABAWD>
- Community Legal Services:  
<https://clsphila.org/learn-about-issues/snap-time-limit-abawds-what-you-need-know>
- Maryland Hunger Solutions:  
<http://www.mdhungersolutions.org/fedfoodprogs/abawds.shtm>
- CBPP:  
<http://www.cbpp.org/2016-snap-cuts-return-of-a-three-month-limit-on-food-assistance-for-some-recipients>
- FRAC infographic:  
[http://frac.org/images\\_new/7-actions-to-stop-snap-time-limits.jpg](http://frac.org/images_new/7-actions-to-stop-snap-time-limits.jpg)

## Questions or Comments?

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