

## Food Stamp ABAWD Screening Guide for NC Hunger Advocates

**Adults can receive Food Stamps for only three months total from January 2016 through December 2018, unless they meet one of the following exceptions. A month in which Food Stamps were prorated (partial month of benefits) does not count toward the three-month limit.**

Individual is eligible for more than 3 months of Food Stamps if	YES	NO
Under age 18 or over age 49		
Part of a household containing a child under the age of 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u><i>This exempts all adults in household, not just parents</i></u></li> <li>• Applies even if the child is ineligible for Food Stamps</li> </ul>		
Physically or mentally unfit for employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get written statement from any medical professional</li> <li>• Need not be “disabled”; can be temporary impairment</li> <li>• Need only show unable to work 20 hours per week</li> <li>• No medical statement required if “obvious”</li> <li>• Receipt of any type of public or private disability payment (e.g. worker’s compensation) sufficient</li> </ul>		
Unfit for employment due to chronic homelessness or alcohol/drug addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness for purpose of ABAWD means living on the street, in a car, or in a homeless shelter. Does not include people who are “doubled up.” Applicant statement is sufficient verification.</li> <li>• Alcohol/drug addiction may be untreated</li> </ul>		
Pregnant (without regard to expected delivery date)		
Living in a county under ABAWD waiver (77 rural counties until 7/16)		
Caring for an incapacitated person (regardless of where they live)		
Participant in a substance abuse treatment program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need not be residential</li> <li>• Must be verified through the organization operating the program</li> </ul>		
Student enrolled at least half time in a training program, school, community college, or similar program BUT ONLY IF in federal work study or WIA or similar federal program or Work First recipient or through On Job Training program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exemption continues during breaks and summers if expected to return for next school term</li> </ul>		
Employed (including self-employed) 80 hours per month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need not generate any income</li> <li>• Work for goods or services (bartering) OK</li> <li>• Accept client statement if self-employed</li> <li>• Volunteer work for nonprofit or public agency OK (e.g. community service)</li> <li>• If good cause for failure to work 80 hours that month (e.g. illness, transportation issues, family emergency), considered to be working 80 hours</li> </ul>		
Participating in Work First Employment Services		
Receiving unemployment insurance benefits (UIB)		
Participating in Refugee Cash Assistance Work program		
Parent operating a home school		
Participating in DSS Employment and Training Program		

If you have checked **YES** to **ANY** of the above exemptions → the individual is eligible for Food Stamps for more than three months.

## Reminders

- If individual is exempt for part of a month, he/she is exempt for entire month (e.g. turn 18 during a month).
- If the individual is ineligible, other persons in household may still get Food Stamps.
- Some individuals who have used their initial three months of eligibility can receive up to three additional months of eligibility, even if he or she does not meet one of the exemptions. An individual who has regained eligibility through work or employment or training activities may continue to receive SNAP for up to three consecutive months after again becoming unemployed even if he or she earlier used up his or her basic three months of benefits while out of work.
- Most exemptions must be verified. If an individual requests assistance, DSS must provide assistance in getting verification.
- Denial of Food Stamps can be appealed within 90 days. New evidence can be provided on appeal.

## NEED LEGAL ASSISTANCE?



### **Mecklenburg County**

*Legal Services of Southern Piedmont*

704-376-1600

1431 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28204



### **Statewide**

*Legal Aid of North Carolina*

1-866-219-5262

Offices located statewide



Resource provided by Legal Services of Southern Piedmont. If you would like more information or have any questions about this resource, please contact us at **704.376.1600** or visit our website at **[www.lssp.org](http://www.lssp.org)**.