

~~-Revised 04/18/08-~~

Operations Memorandum - Food Stamps OPS080301

03/07/08

SUBJECT: Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) Waiver Update
TO: Executive Directors
FROM: Joanne Glover, Director, Bureau of Operations

Purpose

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) of changes to the geographical areas that will be waived from ABAWD provisions **that are effective May 1, 2008.**

Background

On January 18, 2008, the Department of Public Welfare submitted a request to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to modify and extend the waiver that exempts ABAWDs living in certain counties and cities from time-limited participation in the Food Stamp Program **FNS has approved the waiver through January 31, 2009.**

~~Although the waiver request has not been approved by FNS, this information is being provided to give the affected CAOs time to prepare for the policy changes regarding waived and non-waived status. Once approved, the waiver request will cover the time period February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009.~~

~~If FNS modifies our waiver request, this Operations Memorandum will be updated to reflect those changes;~~

Discussion

The following county lost waived status, and ABAWDs living in this area will be subject to the time limits for receipt of the food stamp benefits unless they are in compliance with the work requirements in Food Stamp Handbook (FSH) Chapter 535:

Delaware*

NOTE: *Although Delaware County is no longer waived, the city of Chester will remain waived.

See the updated chart of waived and non-waived areas ([Attachment A](#)).

Once the waiver request is approved by FNS, the system reference table TABW will be updated to convert individuals to the proper "EB" and "EW" eligibility status codes. CAOs will be notified by Daily Status.

Two system-generated client messages will be sent to ABAWD recipients. CAOs will be notified by a Daily Status when the client messages are mailed for the following:

- ABAWDs residing in the geographical area that lost waived status (Delaware County excluding the city of Chester) will receive a client message ([Attachment C](#)) to inform them that they are now subject to the time limit for receipt of food stamp benefits.
- In the newly waived areas, a client message ([Attachment D](#)) will be mailed to ABAWDs whose benefits stopped or who have been removed from a household's benefits since November 1, 2007. The message will inform the ABAWDS that they may be eligible for food stamps.

~~A system-generated client message will be sent to ABAWD recipients in the geographical areas that lost waived status to inform them that they are now subject to the time limit for receipt of food stamp benefits. CAOs will be notified by a Daily Status when the client message is mailed.~~

Please continue to provide the client message ([Attachment B](#)) to all ABAWDs at application and renewal regardless of the geographical waived status of their residence. Although ABAWDs residing in waived areas are currently exempt from the time limits for receipt of benefits, the provisions are contingent on waiver approval from FNS, and waived areas are subject to change.

Next Steps

1. Share this information with all appropriate staff.
2. Give all ABAWD applicants and recipients the attached client message.
3. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete when the FSH has been updated.