

Operations Memorandum - Employment & Training

OPS090805

August 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Work Requirements for Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs)
TO: Executive Directors
FROM: Joanne Glover, Director, Bureau of Operations

Purpose

To inform CAOs that the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) has received clarification from Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) that the work requirement for ABAWDS is waived.

Background

ABAWDS are considered to be meeting the work requirement if they work or if they participate in a Workforce Investment Act Program, a Trade Adjustment Assistance Act Program, or an Employment and Training Program (ETP) for at least 20 hours per week for an average of 80 hours per month. DPW administers a statewide ETP program which offers several components to SNAP recipients. Please refer to [OPS 040710](#) for additional information about ETP. DPW was also granted a statewide waiver from February 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010 to exempt ABAWDS from time-limited receipt of SNAP benefits.

Discussion

Effective April 1, 2009, DPW waived the work requirement for ABAWDS. Clarification was received from FNS that States have flexibility in referring mandatory SNAP recipients, including ABAWDS, to ETP. Due to current economic circumstances and the high unemployment rate, DPW is allowing ABAWDS to volunteer to participate in an ETP. The requirement to be employed for 20 hours per week is also waived.

Although ABAWDS may volunteer to work or participate in ETP the CAO should continue to enter a qualification code of 20 on CACOMP and an ETP code of 30 on CAINDA for ABAWDS. This data entry meets the registration requirement for ABAWDS.

NOTE: ABAWDS who do not participate with the program are not subject to sanction since they may volunteer to participate in ETP.

The CAO should continue to discuss exemptions, good cause and the requirements of ETP at application and during the renewal process for SNAP benefits. When individuals

are already employed or enrolled in an allowable activity, they may continue to participate in work or the activity.

Next Steps

1. Share this information with appropriate staff.
2. Direct questions regarding special allowances procedures to BETP at 717-787-1302.
3. Retain this Operations Memorandum until the information is incorporated into the SNAP Handbook.