**Policy Clarifications – Cash Assistance - All
PCA-17811-137**

**Submitted: 12/15 Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: Work History/Job Skills Training Review for Diversion**

**Question**: [CAH 137.52](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/cash/137_Cash_Initiatives/137.5_Diversion.htm) states that in order for a household to qualify for Diversion, the eligible specified relative must have a work history or job skills training within 90 days of application, but that time frame is extended to 180 days for geographical areas waived for time-limited SNAP. FNS has allowed Pennsylvania to waive time-limited SNAP benefits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) across the state beginning in 2009. Since then, the CAO has used the 180 day timeframe to review work history and job skills training for Diversion eligibility.

[OPS 15-12-02](http://mydhs/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_217068.docx) announced the January 1, 2016 reinstatement of time-limited SNAP benefits for ABAWDs.  With the SNAP ABAWD clock not starting until March 2016, is that additional two months treated as a geographical waiver, meaning we would only decrease the Diversion recent work history timeframe from 180 days to 90 days effective 03/01/2016? Or is the additional two months considered an exception, meaning we would decrease the timeframe effective 01/01/2016?

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| **Response By: Division of Family Assistance** | **Date: 12/15**  |

January and February 2016 are not considered a waiver, but are an exception to the newly reinstated time limits.

The period for review of work history and job skills training for Diversion as described in [CAH 137.52](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/cash/137_Cash_Initiatives/137.5_Diversion.htm) will return to 90 days effective January 1, 2016 with the reinstatement of time-limited SNAP benefits for ABAWDs.

Beginning January 1, 2016, the 180 day time frame can only be applied to those residing in geographical waived areas; the 90 day time frame will be applied to all others.

Please note this guidance is for **Diversion eligibility** procedures only.