

Policy Clarification

Employment & Training- Policy/Procedure

EPP-21420-536

Submitted: 07/12/2023

Agency: CAOs

Subject: ABAWD Waiver Status at end of Public Health Emergency (PHE)

Question: Has the temporary ABAWD waiver that was in place during the pandemic expired? Our workers are seeing news articles in the national press that ABAWD is coming back July 1.

Response By: Bureau of Empl. Programs

Date: 5/30/2023

No, the ABAWD time limit remains waived statewide through September 30, 2023.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), Pub. L. 116-127 temporarily suspends the ABAWD time limit from March 2020 through the month after the month in which the federal PHE ends. Since the PHE ended on May 11, 2023, the FFCRA temporary suspension will expire on June 30, 2023. This is why staff may see national news outlets reports that the ABAWD time limit will return on July 1, 2023.

However, Pennsylvania regularly requested statewide ABAWD waivers under permanent provisions of 7 CFR §273.24 during the pandemic. The most recent statewide waiver remains in effect through September 30, 2023.

Headquarters will release additional guidance to CAOs on whether ABAWD waivers will be extended past September 30 as requests are submitted to and approved by FNS.

FFCRA also requires all states to remove all countable months from each SNAP recipient's ABAWD clock effective July 1, 2023. Effective July 1, 2023, Headquarters will reset any ABAWD clocks with a non-zero clock value to 0 months.

NOTE: Since Pennsylvania has been waived since 2020, the only recipients affected are those who accrued countable months after January 1, 2021 while receiving SNAP in another state, and later moved to Pennsylvania. All other SNAP recipients should already have an ABAWD clock value of 0 months.