

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment and Economic Supports

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TO: Commissioners; Employment Coordinators; TA Directors; WMS Coordinators, WTWCMS Liaisons

FROM: Russell Sykes, Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Suspension of Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) Requirements

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 2009

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The purpose of this message is to inform social services districts about how the suspension of able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) requirements affect case coding and reporting requirements and related changes.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (P.L. 111-5) suspends the eligibility-based work requirements for ABAWDs through September 30, 2010, unless a state indicates that it opts to apply ABAWD requirements and offers qualifying work opportunities. Districts were informed about this change and given the option to decline the suspension and apply ABAWD requirements in a letter dated April 24, 2009. New York City has chosen to continue to apply ABAWD requirements. The remainder of the state has suspended requirements, and will not apply ABAWD requirements through September 30, 2010.

Districts should be aware of the following information:

- Districts that used ABAWD exclusions during the period May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009 must report their exclusions usage through April 30, 2009. After that time, no tracking or reporting is required until otherwise notified. USDA is not providing states with exclusions for FFY 2010 due to the suspension of ABAWD requirements.
- Districts must continue to make correct food stamp employability code determinations (WA, WE, WR). Although the ABAWD requirements are suspended, individuals must continue to be correctly coded for reporting purposes.
- Work registrants must continue to comply with FSET assignments as required by the district. Failure to comply results in individual durational sanction in accordance with 18 NYCRR 385.12 (e).