

**DATE:** July 19, 2016

**TO:** Subscribers

**SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION:** Employment Coordinators, Temporary Assistance  
Directors, SNAP Directors, Staff Development Directors

**FROM:** Phyllis D. Morris, Deputy Commissioner  
Center for Employment and Economic Supports

**SUBJECT:** Clarification of ABAWD Status for SNAP Recipients Receiving Veterans  
Affairs Disability Compensation

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** Employment and Advancement Services (518) 486-6106 or  
Employment Services Advisor

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to inform social services districts (districts) of recent clarification from the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) regarding the Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) status of an individual who is receiving Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation.

Based on the clarification issued by FNS, individuals who are receiving VA disability compensation are exempt from ABAWD requirements, regardless of the percentage of disability rating. SNAP recipients, including those individuals concurrently receiving Temporary Assistance, who are receiving VA disability compensation should be assigned an ABAWD indicator code of "N" (Non-ABAWD).

While individuals are exempt from ABAWD requirements based on the receipt of VA disability compensation, he/she may still be subject to SNAP work requirements, unless the individual is receiving full VA disability compensation (100%) or the district determines that the individual is exempt from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) work requirements consistent with 18 NYCRR 385.3. For example, an individual who is receiving VA disability compensation at a 20% disability rating is exempt from ABAWD requirements, but may be subject to SNAP work requirements, unless the district determines that the individual meets one of the SNAP work requirement exemptions consistent with 18 NYCRR 385.3. The district should assign the appropriate SNAP employability code based on the individual's specific circumstances.

A change is being made to the ABAWD selection logic to exclude SNAP recipients with VA disability compensation (identified on the Automated Budgeting and Eligibility Logic (ABEL) with unearned income source codes of "07"-Disabled Veterans Benefits (non-service connected) and "11"- Disabled Veterans Benefits (service connected) for rest of state Welfare Management System (WMS) and unearned income source codes of "18"- Disabled Veterans Benefit (service connected) and "19"-Disabled Veterans Benefit (non-service connected) for New York City (NYC) WMS budgeted in the SNAP budget during the calendar month. In many instances individuals with budgeted VA disability compensation may have already been determined to be exempt from ABAWD requirements for another reason.

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However, districts should process an ABAWD related override transaction to remove any calendar months that an individual was receiving VA disability compensation, but counted towards an individual's ABAWD time limit.

Regardless of ABAWD status, OTDA encourages districts to provide employment and training services to veterans with disabilities who are receiving SNAP benefits and are seeking such services.

### **ABAWD Questions and Answers**

The SNAP ABAWD Questions and Answers document issued through 16 INF-09 will be updated to reflect this change and included in an update that is being made to Section 3 of the Temporary Assistance and SNAP Employment Policy Manual.

Questions regarding ABAWD requirements may be directed to your district's Employment Services Advisor.