



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	20 TA/DC021 Statewide- Upstate and New York City
Date:	March 30, 2020
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, Temporary Assistance Directors, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators
From:	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Temporary Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit Suspension due to COVID-19 Pandemic
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Employment and Advancement Services Bureau 518-486-6106 or otda.sm.eisp.eas@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) of the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit suspension due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

On March 18, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127) was enacted which temporarily and partially suspends the time limit for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This suspension applies during the period of April 1, 2020 through the end of the month following the month in which the public health emergency declaration based on an outbreak of COVID-19 is lifted.

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) is directing districts to not impose ABAWD requirements at this time, and until otherwise instructed by OTDA. Districts were previously instructed to grant good cause for failure to meet ABAWD requirements in March 2020 and to cite good cause referencing [GIS 20 TA/DC016](#).

We have received confirmation from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) that individuals subject to the ABAWD requirements who have 3 tracked months as not meeting the ABAWD requirements during the current 36 fixed month period may continue to receive SNAP benefits during the temporary suspension of the ABAWD requirements. Individuals who were previously determined ineligible due to failure to comply with the ABAWD requirements for 3 months during the current 36 fixed month period, and reapply for SNAP benefits during the period of the temporary suspension of the ABAWD requirements may receive SNAP benefits (if otherwise eligible) without having to re-establish ABAWD eligibility.

OTDA will inform districts of when the public health emergency declaration ends. Due to the suspension of the ABAWD time limits beginning with the month of April 2020 and until the month following the end of the emergency declaration, OTDA will process overrides for all ABAWDs who have an AB record (countable month) or an AX record (ABAWD exclusion).