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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	21 TA/DC075 Upstate and New York City
Date:	November 9, 2021
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Guidance on the New 36-Month Period
Effective Date:	January 1, 2022
Contact Information:	Employment Services Advisor or Employment and Advancement Services (518) 486-6106

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to inform social services districts (districts) that the current fixed 36-month period for tracking compliance with the ABAWD requirements expires on December 31, 2021 and a new fixed 36-month period will begin on January 1, 2022.

Federal statute and regulations limit an ABAWD's eligibility for SNAP benefits to three months in a 36-month period, unless the individual meets at least one of the following criteria:

- The ABAWD resides in an area that has a federally approved ABAWD waiver,
- The ABAWD is granted an exclusion from the ABAWD work requirement for the calendar month consistent with the exclusion policy established by the district, or
- The ABAWD is meeting the ABAWD work requirement each month.

The current 36-month period for New York State is a fixed period, or "clock", that started on January 1, 2019 and expires on December 31, 2021. The new 36-month period begins January 1, 2022 and will expire on December 31, 2024.

When the ABAWD time limit clock for New York State resets on January 1, 2022 all previously tracked countable months will be removed and the ABAWD tracker will show zero countable months for all individuals. Districts will **not** be responsible for resetting the ABAWD tracker on the Welfare Reporting and Tracking System (WRTS). OTDA will systematically remove all months previously tracked during the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021.

As New York State is currently operating under a federal waiver of the ABAWD time limit in all areas of the State for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, **no ABAWDs residing in the**

State are subject to the ABAWD time limit during this period. Should the Statewide ABAWD waiver end after September 30, 2022, guidance for re-implementing ABAWD requirements will be issued.

Important reminder: Even though all districts in New York are currently operating under a waiver of the ABAWD requirement, district staff must still evaluate each SNAP applicant or recipient's employability and ABAWD status and enter the appropriate SNAP employability and ABAWD codes in the Welfare Management System (WMS).