



Department of Human Resources
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FIA INFORMATION MEMO

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND CASE MANAGERS**

FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**RE: WAIVERS TO THE WORK REQUIREMENT FOR ABLE-BODIED
ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Each year the State submits a new ABAWD waiver to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). We base the waiver request on data from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Based on current data for 2005, Dorchester County, Worcester County and Baltimore City are exempt from the ABAWD work requirements because they are considered labor surplus areas.

Allegany, Garrett and Somerset Counties are no longer considered to be labor surplus areas. We will continue to exempt these counties under the State's 15 percent discretionary exemptions.

Although there is no change in how we treat ABAWDS in the counties that are exempt under the 15 percent exemption, we have to report them to FNS.

No action is required of the local department. We will capture the 15 percent ABAWD exemption for federal reporting purposes through ad hoc reports until CARES system changes are in place. When the system changes are in place, CARES will make the determination and correctly code the ABWD screen (ABAWD Maintenance).

See Section 130 of the Food Stamp Manual for the complete policy for work requirements. You can access the manual through the DHR FIPNET. If you have Internet access, you can go to the manual at <http://www.dhr.md.state.us>.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct questions to Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk