



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: 06-05

Effective Date: November 1, 2005

Issuance Date: August 11, 2005

**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: ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS – 36-MONTH
PERIOD**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS), between the age of 18-47 are ineligible for food stamps unless they meet special work requirements. These individuals can receive food stamp benefits for only three months (consecutive or otherwise) in a 36 month period unless they meet specific work requirements.

The 36-month period is fixed for the entire caseload. The current 36-month period for all cases began November 1, 2002 and ends October 31, 2005. **A new 36-month period begins November 1, 2005 and will end October 31, 2008.**

ACTION REQUIRED:

- Begin a new 36-month period for all ABAWDS beginning November 1, 2005.
- ABAWDS are entitled to their 1st three free months on or after that date.

Examples:

1. Mr. A is an ABAWD. He applied for food stamps on November 3, 2005. The case manager determines that he received his first three free months in July, August and September of 2003. He regained eligibility when he went to work, but lost his job. He received his 2nd three months in July August and September of 2004. He is eligible for his 1st three free months for the new 36-month period.
2. Same situation as example 1, except Mr. A applied for food stamps October 10. The case manager denies the food stamps for October, but finds him eligible for three full months beginning November 1.

3. Ms. B is an ABAWD. She applied for food stamps on November 12, 2005. The case manager determines that she received her first three free months in July, August and September of 2004. She regained eligibility when she went to work. She lost her job and received her 2nd three months in July August and September of 2005. She is eligible for her 1st three free months for the new 36-month period.
- Reminder: The following jurisdictions are exempt from the ABAWD work requirements:
 - ◆ Baltimore City
 - ◆ Dorchester
 - ◆ Worcester

ACTION DUE:

Apply the new 36-month period November 1, 2005.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct questions to Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939 or Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk