



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

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

FROM: ROBERT J. EVERHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**RE: ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) –
CHANGE IN EXEMPT COUNTIES**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS

SUMMARY

The waivers that allow us to exempt certain jurisdictions from the ABAWD work requirements are approved for one year at a time. Each year we submit a new waiver request to the Food and Nutrition Service along with our justification for exempting counties. We were informed that effective March 1, 2000 all jurisdictions that were approved for 1999 except Wicomico County were approved for the next year.

NEW POLICY – EXEMPT JURISDICTIONS

Effective March 1, 2000, FNS exempted the following jurisdictions from the ABAWD work requirements:

- Garrett County
- Worcester County
- Dorchester County
- Allegany County
- Cecil County
- Kent County
- Somerset County
- Anne Arundel County (Annapolis City for insufficient jobs plus the balance of Anne Arundel County through the 15% exemption)
- Baltimore City

Able-bodied adults without dependents in Wicomico County are no longer exempt from the work requirement.

The ABAWD work requirements are explained in section 130.24 of the Food Stamp Manual.

In March, able-bodied adults without dependents in Wicomico County who are not meeting the work requirement will receive the first of their three "free" months of benefits. The local department must review assistance units that include an ABAWD and ensure that these individuals receive no more than 3 months of benefits.

The case manager must send a notice of adverse action to any household with a certification period that is scheduled to end after May 30, 2000.

Example: Mr. A has received food stamps as a one-person household in Wicomico county since 4/99. He is 30 years old and is working 10 hours per week. He is certified through April 30, 2000. Since he can receive no more than 3 more months of food stamps unless he complies with the work requirement or becomes exempt, at recertification the case manager will authorize benefits for the month of May only.

Example: Ms. B has received food stamps in Wicomico County since 12/99. She is 40 years old and is not working and is not in a work program. She was recently recertified with a new certification period from February 1, 2000 through July. Based on information in the case record, she is an ABAWD who should not get benefits beyond May. On May 13, the case manager sends Ms. B a notice of adverse action to notify her of the termination of her benefits effective May 31. When she receives the notice of adverse action she calls her case manager and says she is disabled. She provides a statement from her doctor. Since she is exempt from the ABAWD requirement and provided verification before the adverse action period expired, the case manager reinstates her food stamp case for the remainder of the certification period.

ACTION DUE

This policy is effective March 1, 2000.

PAYMENT ACCURACY

Local departments must insure that an individual who is ineligible because of the ABAWD requirements does not receive benefits. When a household that includes an ABAWD moves from one jurisdiction to another, the case manager must review past receipt of food stamp benefits and the waiver status of the prior jurisdiction before issuing benefits.

ACTION REQUIRED

CARES cannot automatically determine individuals affected by the ABAWD work requirement. The case manager must make this determination.

One person households not complying with the ABAWD requirement:

- On the **STAT** screen enter the reason code **526** (DID NOT MEET ABAWD WORK REQUIREMENTS) in the AU Status field. Press enter.
- Fast path to the **DONE** screen.
- Confirm FS denial or closing on the **ELIG** screen. Press enter.
- Confirm **FSFI** screen with \$0 benefit.

Two or more persons in Food Stamp household:

- On the **STAT** screen enter the individual reason code **526** (DID NOT MEET ABAWD WORK REQUIREMENTS) for the non-compliant individual. Press PF4.
- Fast path to the **DONE** screen.
- Confirm the individual denial or closing. The non-compliant individual's Financial Responsibility code is **NM**. Press enter.
- The **FSFI** screen will reflect countable income of the eligible household members and the new allotment amount.
- Confirm the benefit and press enter.

Note: The **SHEL** screen will continue to display the household shelter cost.

Reminder: Always clearly document case actions in the narrative by pressing PF21 from the ADDR screen.

Workers should review clearances thoroughly. When the **526** reason code is displayed the customer must meet ABAWD work requirements to be eligible for Food Stamps.

INQUIRIES

Please direct policy questions to Kay Finegan at (410) 767-7939. Direct systems questions to David Holland at (410) 238-1295.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
OIM Help Desk
CIS Testing Facility