



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: #09-16

Effective Date: November 1, 2008

Issuance Date: October 1, 2008

**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 SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM (FSP)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs), between the ages of 18-47 can receive FSP 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, 2005 and ends October 31, 2008. **A new 36-month period begins November 1, 2008 and will end October 31, 2011.**

See 130.24 of the Food Supplement Program (FSP) Manual for ABAWD policy.

ACTION REQUIRED:

- Begin a new 36-month period for all ABAWDs beginning November 1, 2008.
- ABAWDs who are otherwise eligible are entitled to their 1st three free months on or after that date.

Examples:

1. Mr. A is an ABAWD. He applied for FSP benefits on November 3, 2008. The case manager determines that he received his first three free months in July, August and September of 2006. He regained eligibility when he went to work (working more than 80 hours per month), but lost his job. He received his 2nd three months in July, August and September of 2007 (130.24 C and D of FSP Manual). He is eligible for his 1st three free months for the new 36-month period, beginning November 1, and ending October 31, 2011.

2. Same situation as example 1, except Mr. A applied for FSP benefits on October 10. The case manager denies the FSP benefit for October, but finds him eligible for three full months beginning November 1.
- Reminder: The following jurisdictions are exempt from the ABAWD work requirements:
 - ◆ Allegany County
 - ◆ Baltimore City
 - ◆ Dorchester County
 - ◆ Garrett County
 - ◆ Somerset County
 - ◆ Worcester County

ACTION DUE:

Apply the new 36-month period beginning November 1, 2008.

INQUIRIES:

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

cc: Stacy Rodgers
FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk