



Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
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DATE: April 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Fiscal Year
2023 Allocations of Discretionary Exemptions for Able-Bodied Adults
Without Dependents

TO: All SNAP State Agencies
All Regions

Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) limits the amount of time able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) may participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to 3 months in any 36-month period, unless an individual fulfills certain work requirements or is otherwise exempt from the time limit. However, the Act allocates a number of monthly discretionary exemptions to the ABAWD time limit each fiscal year (FY), based on 12 percent of a State's estimated number of covered individuals, as defined in section 6(o)(6)(A)(ii) of the Act.

This memorandum adjusts the total number of exemptions available to each State for FY 2023, as shown in the table on the next page. This includes increases in the number of exemptions available to States in which caseloads increased by more than 10 percent, as described in section 6(o)(6)(F) of the Act.

Please note that the totals do not account for any exemption usage in FY 2023 (those figures must be reported in final by States on the Form FNS-583, due 45-days after the end of the FY). While States have great flexibility in applying discretionary exemptions, States must track and report the number of discretionary exemptions used each month on a quarterly basis to their respective FNS regional office via the FNS-583 form. In addition, discretionary exemptions must be properly documented in the case file prior to monthly Quality Control sample selections.

Special Considerations

As a reminder, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) temporarily and partially suspends the time limit for ABAWDs' participation in SNAP from April 1, 2020, through the end of the month subsequent to the month in which the public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services based on an outbreak of COVID-19 is lifted. As the Secretary announced, the public health emergency declaration will end on May 11, 2023, the suspension of the ABAWD time limit will end on June 30, 2023, and State agencies must begin assigning countable months starting July 1, 2023. During the suspension, if a State offers an ABAWD a slot in a work or workfare program that would allow the

person to meet the ABAWD work requirement for a given month, including a SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program under section 6(d)(4), the individual is still subject to the time-limit. Many States did not need to use any discretionary exemptions in FY 2023. For more information, please see the memo [SNAP – Families First Coronavirus Response Act and Impact on Time Limit for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents \(ABAWDs\)](#).

FNS encourages State agencies to reference the memorandum “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Preparing for Reinstatement of the Time Limit for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs),” which FNS initially issued on September 21, 2021, and [reissued](#) on February 10, 2023. This guidance provides important requirements for State agencies as they prepare for the reinstatement of the ABAWD time limit.

State agencies with questions should contact their respective Regional Office representatives. Regional Offices should contact Catrina Kamau or Alison Conrad with any questions.

for

Catrina L. Kamau
Chief
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Enclosure

Table 1: ABAWD Discretionary Exemption Totals for FY 2023

State	Total Available for FY 2023	New Earned for FY 2023	Used in FY 2022	Total Available in FY 2022
Alabama	352,148	37,140	0	315,008
Alaska	25,126	4,932	0	20,194
Arizona	154,548	0	0	154,548
Arkansas	164,363	14,544	0	149,819
California	851,432	0	0	851,432
Colorado	38,695	0	0	38,695
Connecticut	55,308	0	0	55,308
Delaware	83,807	3,360	0	80,447
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0
Florida	1,071,621	133,512	0	938,109
Georgia	76,372	63,624	0	12,748
Guam	3,850	0	0	3,850
Hawaii	74,907	0	0	74,907
Idaho	68,537	4,932	0	63,605
Illinois	23,383	0	0	23,383
Indiana	267,617	24,180	0	243,437
Iowa	158,170	8,484	0	149,686

State	Total Available for FY 2023	New Earned for FY 2023	Used in FY 2022	Total Available in FY 2022
Kansas	81,597	5,544	0	76,053
Kentucky	199,864	0	0	199,864
Louisiana	12,820	0	0	12,820
Maine	65,755	0	0	65,755
Maryland	74,494	24,240	0	50,254
Massachusetts	189,854	0	0	189,854
Michigan	605,877	0	0	605,877
Minnesota	59,526	0	0	59,526
Mississippi	229,616	19,764	0	209,852
Missouri	311,468	37,944	0	273,524
Montana	52,354	4,092	0	48,262
Nebraska	81,904	5,256	0	76,648
Nevada	57,910	0	0	57,910
New Hampshire	9,208	0	0	9,208
New Jersey	169,985	0	0	169,985
New Mexico ¹	-1,868	0	0	-1,868
New York	181,415	0	0	181,415

¹ New Mexico overused 15 percent exemptions in the first and second quarters of FY 2009. The State has had waivers since that time and therefore has not earned any exemptions since that time. The State cannot use 15 percent exemptions until its negative balance is eliminated.

State	Total Available for FY 2023	New Earned for FY 2023	Used in FY 2022	Total Available in FY 2022
North Carolina	412,679	62,508	0	350,171
North Dakota	20,340	1,944	30	18,426
Ohio	344,039	0	0	344,039
Oklahoma	486,487	27,600	0	458,887
Oregon	178,519	0	0	178,519
Pennsylvania	169,988	0	0	169,988
Rhode Island	14,508	0	0	14,508
South Carolina	162,485	18,300	0	144,185
South Dakota	8,754	1,860	5,830	12,724
Tennessee	307,761	52,368	10	255,403
Texas	2,524,615	121,380	11,881	2,415,116
Utah	51,827	3,900	0	47,927
Vermont	26,880	0	0	26,880
Virgin Islands	103,514	39,108	0	64,406
Virginia	402,182	0	0	402,182
Washington	53,116	0	0	53,116
West Virginia	207,483	21,888	0	185,595
Wisconsin	139,833	24,132	0	115,701
Wyoming	40,381	1,584	0	38,797