



# SNAP Work Rules Screening Checklists

SNAP State agencies must establish procedures to screen for and apply the general work requirements and able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) work requirement and time limit. This resource can help you determine if someone meets an exemption or exception or must meet work requirements.

## General Work Requirements Exemptions ([7 CFR § 273.7\(b\)](#))

An individual who does not meet an exemption must comply with the general work requirements.

- The individual is exempt from the general work requirements if they are any of the following:**
- Younger than age 16, or age 60 or older
- Responsible for the care of a child under age 6 or a person who needs help caring for themselves
- Working 30 hours or more a week or earning at least \$217.50 a week
- Receiving or have applied for unemployment benefits
- Experiencing physical or mental barriers to work (as defined by the State Agency)  
*Remember to discuss this exemption thoroughly and comprehensively with the household*
- Going to school, college, or training program at least half time
- Meeting the work rules for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program

### Screening Tips

#### Avoid Over-Burdening Clients

Use information from the application, case file, and data matches to see if a client meets an exemption.

#### Listen to the Client

Follow interview best practices: prepare for the discussion with well-thought-out questions and actively listen. Learn more: [State SNAP Interview Toolkit](#).

## ABAWD Work Requirement/Time Limit Exceptions ([Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023](#) and [7 CFR § 273.24\(c\)](#))

If the State agency determines a SNAP household is subject to the general work requirements, it must then determine if the individual is also subject to the ABAWD work requirement/time limit or if they meet an exception. Individuals that are subject to the ABAWD work requirement/time limit must either work (including volunteering and in-kind work) or participate in a work program, or any combination, for 80 hours a month, or participate in workfare for the number of hours assigned each month.

- The individual is exempt from the ABAWD work requirement if they are any of the following:**
- Exempt from the general work requirements (see checklist above)
- Living in an area where the ABAWD time limits are waived
- Under 18 years old or older than the age limit for the Federal fiscal year\*
- Living with someone under 18 in their SNAP household
- Experiencing homelessness
- A veteran
- Age 24 or younger and in foster care when they were age 18
- Receiving temporary or permanent disability benefits
- Experiencing physical or mental barriers to work (barrier may be observable)  
*Remember to discuss this exemption thoroughly and comprehensively with the household*
- Pregnant

### Screening Tips

#### ABAWDs Facing Physical/Mental Barriers

##### Screen for indicators of barriers.

- Periodic unemployment
- Needs medical or mental health care
- Recent hospitalization or injury

##### Ask follow-up questions.

- Identify if lack of employment is due to physical or mental conditions

**Consider collateral contacts if barrier is not obvious.**

### \*ABAWD Age-Based Exception Chart

October 2023 – September 2024	October 2024 – September 2030
Age 53 or older	Age 55 or older

# SNAP Work Rules Screening Flow

