



Department of
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Cynthia C. Dungey, Director

Family Assistance Letter #171

September 7, 2018

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Kara B. Wentz, Deputy Director
Family Assistance, Office of Family Assistance

SUBJECT: Federal Fiscal Year 2019: Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents

Background

Ohio operates a mandatory Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) program that is inclusive of recipients defined as able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). Therefore, regardless of a county's waiver status, every ABAWD in the State must undergo an appraisal of OAC 5101:4-3-29, be assigned and participate in a SNAP E&T component (education/training, job search/job readiness, and/or work experience). ABAWDs that fail to comply with a SNAP E&T requirement are subject to a sanction.

ABAWDs who do not reside in a waived county are required to participate in a work program for 20 hours a week, or 80 hours a month; ABAWDs that do not participate are prohibited from receiving more than three months of benefits in a three-year period. Participation in SNAP E&T can be used to meet all or some of the 20 hours per week requirement. ABAWDs who reside in a waived county must participate in SNAP E&T; however, the time limit of 20 hours minimum a week, or 80 hours minimum a month, is waived.

Based upon approval by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), the time limit is waived in the following 26 counties until 9/30/2018: Adams, Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Huron, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Pike, Scioto, Trumbull, and Washington counties.

Change in Policy

Using the same criteria established by FNS at 7 CFR 273.24(f), the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has been approved to waive the time limit in the following county agencies beginning on 10/1/2018: Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Erie, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Huron, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Pike, Richland, Scioto, South Central Ohio (consisting of

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
jfs.ohio.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider

Hocking, Ross, and Vinton counties), Trumbull, and Washington. Based on unemployment data obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 24-month average unemployment rate in each of the counties was greater than 120 percent of the national unemployment rate during the same 24-month period. ABAWDs that do not meet an exemption and that are not residing in one of these county agencies are subject to the time limit described in OAC rule 5101:4-3-20.

Again, the waiver of the time limit **does not** waive the requirement for ABAWDs to be appraised, assessed, assigned and participate in SNAP E&T, or remove the tiered sanctioning for failing to cooperate with a requirement of the SNAP E&T program.

Questions can be sent to Denise Olson at Denise.Olson@jfs.ohio.gov or by calling Program Policy Services at 1-866-886-3537 (option 6).