



**Family Assistance Letter # 105**  
**OFFICE OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN**  
**May 13, 2011**

**TO:** Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

**FROM:** Trudie J. Bormann, Deputy  
Family Assistance, Office of Families and Children

**SUBJECT:** Extension of Waiver of Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents Requirements  
for Food Assistance Eligibility

This letter is to update you on the waiver status of the requirement on able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) for food assistance eligibility for Ohio. As a result of the continued high unemployment rates in the state, Ohio's existing statewide waiver of the ABAWD requirement will be in effect until September 30, 2012.

Federal law requires states to limit the food assistance eligibility of ABAWDs to 3 out of 36 months of benefits unless the participants are working or participating in a work program for at least 20 hours a week. In Ohio this is governed by Rule 5101:4-3-20 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

On April 16, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included a provision providing for a nationwide waiver of the ABAWD requirements until September 30, 2010. As a result of continued high unemployment, the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved Ohio's request to continue the statewide waiver through September 30, 2011. Recently, FNS has again approved Ohio to continue the statewide waiver through Federal Fiscal Year 2012. All Ohio counties are to continue to waive the ABAWD requirements through September 30, 2012. Being approved for the waiver means that ABAWD individuals are not required to comply with the ABAWD requirements of 5101:4-3-20 while residing in any county in Ohio during the approved waiver period.

For further information about the ABAWD waiver, please contact Program Policy Services either by email at TANF-FSTA or by calling 1-866-886-3537 (option 6).

c: Michael B. Colbert, Director  
Michael McCreight, Assistant Director  
ODJFS Deputy Directors  
Family Assistance Staff

Joel Potts, ODJFSDA  
Larry Long, CCAO  
Kim Bridges, OCDA  
Crystal Allen, PCSAO

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