



Department of
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Michael B. Colbert, Director

Family Assistance Letter # 114
OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE
April 17, 2012

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Trudie J. Bormann, Deputy Director
Office of Family Assistance

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 continue to be in effect until September 30, 2013.

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.

Federal law also states that a state can qualify for a twelve month statewide ABAWD waiver if the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Service determines it meets the criteria for extended unemployment benefits. 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. As a result of this waiver request all Ohio counties are to continue to waive the ABAWD requirements through September 30, 2013. 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).

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