



Ted Strickland, Governor

Douglas E. Lumpkin, Director

Family Assistance Letter # 95
OFFICE OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
August 9, 2010

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Trudie J. Bormann, Assistant Deputy Director
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 status of the waiver of the requirement on able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) for food assistance eligibility for Ohio. As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and continued high unemployment rates in the state, Ohio's existing statewide waiver of the ABAWD requirement will be in effect until September 30, 2011.

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. Several Ohio counties have been eligible for a waiver of this requirement for years due to high unemployment rates. In June 2008, the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved a waiver of the ABAWD requirement for all 88 counties to be effective from July 1, 2008 until June 30, 2010.

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.

Recently, as a result of continued high unemployment, FNS approved Ohio's request to continue the waiver through September 30, 2011. All Ohio counties are to continue to waive the ABAWD requirements through September 30, 2011. 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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