



Family Assistance Letter #180
OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE
September 17, 2019

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Wanda J. Ellis, Deputy Director
Office of Family Assistance

SUBJECT: **Federal Fiscal Year 2020: 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 5101:4-4-39, 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 are still required to participate in SNAP E&T; however, the limit of 20 hours minimum a week, or 80 hours minimum a month, is waived.

Based upon approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), the time limit is waived for the following county agencies until 9/30/2019: 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 Hocking, Ross, and Vinton counties), Trumbull, and Washington.

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 requested to waive the time limit in the following county agencies beginning on 10/1/2019: Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Erie, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Henry, Highland, Huron,

Jackson, Jefferson, Lake, Lawrence, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Pike, Richland, Scioto, South Central Ohio (consisting of Hocking, Ross, and Vinton counties), Stark, Summit, 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 counties 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 the 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 Program Policy Services either by email at TANF-FSTA@jfs.ohio.gov or by calling 1-866-886-3537 (option 6).