

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

DATE: August 02, 2023
MANUAL: Food and Nutrition Services Manual
TO: County Directors of Social Services
CHANGE NO: 02-2023
SUBJECT: Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) and Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) Policy updates
EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2023

I. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this change notice for the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) manual is to update the ABAWD sections and include the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) modifications. The FRA gradually increases the age of those subject to the able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) time limit and adds new groups of individuals who are excepted from the ABAWD time limit.

II. SPECIFIC CHANGES

110 Purpose and Authority of the Food and Nutrition Services Program
Updated the purpose of FNS
FNS 260 Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs)
260.00 What is an Able-Bodied Adult with Dependents (ABAWD)? Added clarity to manual introduction section and the new age requirements.
260.01 Who is Exempt from the ABAWD Time-Limit? (A) Updated manual section to reference the age under the age requirement and over the age requirement. (C) Pregnant Added clarity to manual section to reference when exemption begins.
E:4 Homeless Updated the definition of homeless and to include it is an exemption and broaden the definition.
F. Removed section regarding ABAWD waivers.
E:7 Foster Care Added new exemption and defined.
E:8 Veterans Added new exemption and defined.
260.02 Determining Countable Months Updated manual section to reference the current fixed clock is a three-year period which is January 1 st through December 31 st .
A. 3-month participation time limit Updated to include ABAWDs are required to report when hours decreased below 20 hours.
260.03 Countable & Non-Countable ABWAD Months B:1 Updated to include when hours reduce below 20 hours. B:2 Included policy reference for good cause.
260.05 Application / Reapplication / Recertification / Change (A) Application (1: a, b & c) (a) Added manual section to reference working an average of 20 hours per week (80 hours in the month). (b) Added manual section to reference verbally explain the Work Requirements Script for Eligibility Workers at the time of interview to ABAWDs.

(c) Added manual section to reference verbally explain and provide the ABAWD with the [DSS-8569 Consolidated Work Notice](#). The case file must be documented with the date the notice was verbally explained, how the notice was given, if by hand delivery or mailed.

(B) Reapplications (1: c, d & e)

(c) Added manual section to reference working an average of 20 hours per week (80 hours in the month).

(d) Added manual section to reference verbally explain the Work requirements Script for Eligibility workers at the time of interview to ABAWDS. The case file must be documented that the work requirements script was verbally explained and date when explained.

(e) Added manual section to reference verbally explain and provide the ABAWD with the [DSS-8569 Consolidated Work Notice](#). The case file must be documented with the date the notice was verbally explained, how the notice was given, if by hand delivery or mailed.

(C) Recertifications (1:b, c, & d)

(b) Added manual section to reference working an average of 20 hours per week (80 hours in the month). Consider an ABAWD to have met the 80 hours per month rule when the hours worked are at least 80 hours.

Added section to manual to reference ABAWDs are required to report changes by the 10th of the month following the month of change when the number of hours working fall below 20 hours per week regardless of simplified reporting requirements.

(c) Added section to manual to reference to verbally explain the Work requirements Script for Eligibility Workers at the time of interview to the ABAWD. The case file must be documented that the work requirement script was verbally explained and date when explained.

(d) Added section to manual to reference to verbally explain and provide the ABAWD with the DSS 8569 Consolidated Work Notice. The case file must be documented with the date the notice was verbally explained, how the written notice was given, if hand delivery or mailed.

260.06 NC FAST Tracking ABAWD Eligibility

B:6,9,10 &11 Included new age requirements

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

These changes are effective upon receipt. If you have any questions, please submit them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Team (CQI) dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Madhu Vulimiri, MPP
Deputy Director
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

MV/vb

Attachments (1)

FNS 260 Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDS)