

# SNAP/FAP ABAWD Time Limit *Desk Guide*

The federal **Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit Rule** places a limit on how long certain individuals are eligible to participate in SNAP (known as Food Assistance Program (FAP) in Michigan). Those considered “ABAWDs” may only receive SNAP benefits for a total of three full months, for the 36-month period beginning October 1, 2018, and ending September 30, 2021, unless they live in a waived area, meet an exemption, or are already meeting work requirements (see reverse).

## Who is at risk?

SNAP recipients who:

- are between 18 and 49 years old,
- are not disabled, and are able to work,
- do not have children under 18, and
- are living in any county in Michigan.

## Additional Resources

To find your local DHHS office:

[www.michigan.gov/ContactMDHHS](http://www.michigan.gov/ContactMDHHS)

[www.michiganalliancetostophunger.com/resources](http://www.michiganalliancetostophunger.com/resources)

This site houses an array of resources, including our SNAP ABAWD Time Limit Checklist, policy updates, a medical statement template, DHHS communications and a client flyer.

## How community organizations can help:

- **Share** this fact sheet with other service providers in your community. You can also find a flyer specifically for clients under Additional Resources.
- **Use** the SNAP ABAWD Time Limit Checklist to determine if time limit rules apply (see Additional Resources).
- **Provide** individuals who are “unfit for work” with the sample medical statement form, to be signed by an approved medical professional. If a client is chronically homeless, provide them with the Chronic Homeless Verification Form.
- **Ensure** exempt individuals contact their DHHS office to provide information about their exempt status and help them gather the needed documentation.
- **Ensure** individuals subject to the work requirements contact their DHHS office to find out how they can meet these requirements and enroll in qualifying activities.
- **Mediate** with the SNAP office on behalf of clients wrongly denied benefits under the time limit rule, or refer clients to a legal services organization.



[www.foodgatherers.org](http://www.foodgatherers.org)



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[www.fbcmich.org](http://www.fbcmich.org)

Prepared by Food Bank Council of Michigan and Food Gatherers, with information from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

# Quick Facts: Waivers, Exemptions, and Work Requirements

## Waivers

Individuals living in the following counties and jurisdictions in Michigan have been waived from time limits:<sup>\*</sup>

### Counties

*These counties have been waived in their entirety. Time limits do not apply to those living anywhere in these counties.*

None at this time

<sup>\*</sup> Beginning October 1, 2018, all counties in Michigan will be subject to time-limited benefits. Clients should note that they must notify their caseworker of any changes to their case throughout their benefit year, which may affect their benefit level and eligibility.

## Exemptions

Time limits do not apply to individuals who meet any of the following:

- Under age 18 or 50 years or older
- Working 20 hours or more per week, including self-employment or in-kind work
- Receiving retirement, survivors and disability insurance due to disability or blindness, or receives Supplemental Security Income or State Disability Assistance
- Physically or mentally unable to work, including those who are chronically homeless
- Participating in an in-patient or out-patient drug or alcohol treatment program
- Receiving or applied for unemployment benefits
- Attending training or college at least half-time and meeting the student eligibility criteria to receive food assistance
- Living with a child under 18 who is part of the same SNAP household
- Are a current victim of domestic violence
- Pregnant—at any stage of pregnancy
- Caring for a person with a disability or a child under age 6

## Work Requirements

Individuals who do not meet any of the above exemptions can remain eligible for SNAP benefits past three months if they participate in a qualifying work activity and document the number of hours worked each month with their DHHS caseworker. Qualifying work activities include:

- Work an average of at least 20 hours per week each month in unsubsidized employment.

- Participate 20 hours per week in an approved employment and training program, averaged monthly.
- Participate in community service by volunteering at a nonprofit organization<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Nonprofit volunteer hours are determined by dividing the individual's household monthly food assistance benefit by Michigan's minimum wage (\$9.25 as of 1/1/18)