



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	25DC081 Upstate and New York City
Date:	November 21, 2025
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, Temporary Assistance Directors, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators, Fair Hearing Staff
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Reinstatement of the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit Waiver
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Employment and Advancement Services Bureau (518) 486-6106 or EASBureau@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	None

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to provide social services districts (districts) with an update on New York's able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) time limit waiver for all areas of the State excluding Saratoga County. Districts were informed in 25-ADM-03-P that our ABAWD waiver was terminated by the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) as of 11/2/25. **Litigation in the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island has blocked that termination and as such New York's ABAWD waiver for all counties of the State except Saratoga from March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026, remains in effect.**

Section 3

Effective immediately, all districts excluding Saratoga County **must waive** the ABAWD time limit.

All districts are required to continue to screen SNAP applicants and recipients for an exemption from SNAP work requirements and/or an exemption from the ABAWD time limit and correctly assign the SNAP employability and ABAWD status codes to each individual applying for or

receiving SNAP benefits, including those individuals who are concurrently applying for or receiving Public Assistance (PA) as outlined in [25-ADM-03-P - Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents \(ABAWD\) Time Limit Policy Update and Guidance](#).

Districts are still required to begin screening for and applying the modified ABAWD exemption criteria based on changes resulting from H.R. 1 to all initial applications and recertification applications received beginning November 1, 2025. For example, if the district receives a late recertification application in November 2025, from a household with a certification period expiring October 31, 2025, it must apply the modified exemptions. Districts must continue sending the updated [LDSS-5193 - Important Information About SNAP Work Rules \(General, Mandatory E&T and ABAWD\)](#) (Rev. 10/25) to all individuals screened and identified as ABAWDs after November 1, 2025.

Districts must ensure that the correct SNAP employability and ABAWD status codes are entered on the Welfare Management System (WMS) at the time of opening and recertification for SNAP benefits even while under a waiver. The SNAP employability and ABAWD status codes must also be updated in a timely manner whenever a change in the individual's SNAP employability and/or ABAWD status is reported and documented.

Effective immediately, districts other than Saratoga County are not required to provide individuals identified as ABAWDs with the LDSS-5127 *ABAWD Work Activity Letter* (Rev. 10/25). Rather, districts other than Saratoga County should begin sending the LDSS-5127 based on operational need to support ABAWD engagement prior to the updated ABAWD waiver termination date of February 28, 2026. OTDA recommends that large districts begin reissuing the LDSS-5127 in January 2026 and smaller districts may choose to send them beginning February 2026. All existing appointments scheduled using the LDSS-5127 issued prior to the release of this GIS can be continued. However, the ABAWD's compliance with the appointment for the offer of an ABAWD qualifying work activity is not mandatory as a matter of eligibility, and failure to appear will not result in conciliation or imposition of a SNAP sanction. ABAWDs who attend these appointments should be made aware of the new waiver termination date and that tracked months for failure to comply with the ABAWD requirement would not begin until March 2026. This appointment is separate and apart from any other mandatory work activity appointments or assignments given as part of the individual's PA work assignment or SNAP E&T work assignment. OTDA encourages districts to continue to engage with this population during the remainder of the waiver period.

Effective immediately, OTDA will adjust the ABAWD tracker in the Welfare Reporting and Tracking System (WRTS) to reflect a district waiver for every district other than Saratoga County.