

## **Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD)**

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved Alaska's new ABAWD waiver that will be effective November 1, 2024. Boroughs/census areas with locally high unemployment rates will remain exempt, but the Anchorage Borough will be ABAWD required.

Every state is allotted a number of discretionary exemptions that can be used to exempt specific ABAWD required individuals from the time limit. The state of Alaska has decided to apply our discretionary exemptions to ABAWD required individuals living in the Alaska Native Village of Eklutna.

### **Use of discretionary exemptions may only be used if no other ABAWD exemption applies.**

If an individual is eligible for any other ABAWD exemption, this must be used rather than the discretionary exemption. If more than one ABAWD exemption applies to the SNAP recipient, use the exemption that will last the longest.

Example: An ABAWD required individual living in Eklutna is pregnant. The exemption reason used on the ABWD screen in EIS will be based on pregnancy not the discretionary exemption.

SNAP recipients subject to the ABAWD time limit, regardless of exemption status, continue to be subject to the reporting requirements as explained in [SNAP MS 602-1\(L\)\(11\)](#).

Caseworkers must correctly identify individuals that must meet the ABAWD work requirements and be able to explain the work requirements that an ABAWD must meet in order to accurately code these individuals on the WORK and ABWD screens in EIS.

Attached to this broadcast you will find an ABAWD desk guide. This guide includes basic ABAWD policy and processing instructions that all DPA staff need to read and follow. [EIS Procedure 2015-2](#) explaining the *Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABWD) Tracking Screen* is also available on the DPA web page under Employee Resources, Program Policy and Procedure Manuals at <http://dpaweb.hss.state.ak.us/node/15>. The ABAWD web-based training from SD&T is now available at <https://hsstraining.alaska.gov/course/view.php?id=6463>.

We must identify all individuals that will be subject to the ABAWD time limit starting in November and update the coding in EIS. A list of all SNAP recipients that may be ABAWD required will be distributed and must be completed by adverse action in October. We cannot wait until the next certification period as the time limit for non-exempt ABAWDs starts in November.

A list of exempt and non-exempt areas as of November 2024 is attached to this broadcast and [Addendum 2](#) of the SNAP manual will be revised December 2, 2024.

If you have any questions, please email Policy & Program Development at [hss.dpa.policy@alaska.gov](mailto:hss.dpa.policy@alaska.gov), system questions to [hss.dpa.systems.support@alaska.gov](mailto:hss.dpa.systems.support@alaska.gov), and process questions to your direct supervisor.

In Alaska, the federal work requirement for ABAWDs in Alaska will change effective November 1, 2024. ABAWD individuals who are not meeting these work requirements may only receive up to three (3) months of SNAP benefits within a 36-month period, **not counting any prorated months**. Remember that a month in which the household only receives PFD hold harmless is not a countable ABAWD month.

### **Who is an ABAWD?**

An ABAWD is an able-bodied adult between the ages of 18 and 54 in a SNAP household without children under the age of 18.

### **Who is eligible?**

ABAWDs residing in non-exempt areas will be limited to receiving three months of SNAP benefits in a 36 month period unless they are:

- Under the age of 18 or over the age of 54;
- Working 20 or more hours a week, averaged monthly;
- Participating in an approved work activity 20 or more hours a week, averaged monthly; or
- A combination of both.

### **Can an ABAWD regain eligibility?**

A person who has used their three countable months may regain eligibility for SNAP benefits if any of the following occur:

- Works or participates in an approved employment and training activity at least 80 hours in a 30 day period;
- Becomes exempt from work requirements;
- The 36 month period expires and a new 36 month period begins. Alaska's current 36 month period ends December 31, 2024 and a new 36 month period will start January 1, 2025.

### **What if an ABAWD loses employment?**

A person who regained eligibility by working 80 hours or more in a 30 day period then loses this employment shall remain eligible for an additional consecutive three (3) month period. The additional period begins the day they first notify DPA that they no longer meet the work requirement.

### **Are there exceptions?**

An individual may be exempt from ABAWD work requirements if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Medically (either physical or mentally) unable to work;
- Pregnant;
- Residing in a household with a dependent child. A dependent is defined as a child under the age of 18 years old that is included in the SNAP household;
- Responsible for the care of an incapacitated adult (either a household member or non-household member);
- Receiving unemployment compensation;
- Participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program;
- Living in an exempt area due to locally high unemployment rates;
- Enrolled at least half time in a school or training program – although a student may be exempt from ABAWD work requirements, the student must still meet student exemption criteria and all other applicable SNAP eligibility requirements;
- Homeless Individuals;
- Veterans;
- Individuals aging out of foster care; or
- Discretionary exemption (see explanation below).

**Discretionary Exemptions:**

The state of Alaska has decided to apply our discretionary exemptions to ABAWD required individuals living in the following census area of Anchorage that are subject to the ABAWD time limit:

- Native Village of Eklutna

**Use of discretionary exemptions may only be used if no other ABAWD exemption applies.**

If an individual is eligible for any other ABAWD exemption, this must be used rather than the discretionary exemption. If more than one ABAWD exemption applies to the SNAP recipient, use the exemption that will last the longest.

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**Example:**

*An ABAWD required individual living in the Native Village of Eklutna is pregnant. The exemption reason used on the ABAWD screen in EIS will be based on pregnancy not the discretionary exemption.*

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**Are there special processes for ABAWDs?**

No special case reviews are required to identify and stop benefits for persons becoming ineligible under this ABAWD policy, but there will be shortened certification periods for any household that contains a non-exempt ABAWD.

- Starting in October 2024, all applications and recertifications will be screened for ABAWD criteria as countable months start in November 2024.
- Starting with the benefit month of November 2024, caseworkers will add correct coding to the WORK screen so that EIS can start tracking countable months for those that are not exempt.
- All identified ABAWD households starting November 2024 will be assigned the CARC of 6-64 (pending cases use: 6-41)
- All statewide Eligibility Technician II's will process ABAWD cases.

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**Example:**

*A household submits application on November 13, 2024 for SNAP and Medicaid. The SNAP household contains a non-exempt ABAWD that is not currently meeting the work requirements. The ABAWD work requirements and SNAP limitations are explained to the applicant during the interview. This individual indicates they would like to receive SNAP benefits and start using their countable months. This information is documented in the case note.*

*This client is found eligible for SNAP benefits and is certified November 2024 – February 2025. November is a prorated month so this month does not count towards their three ABAWD months but December, January, and February are countable months.*

***The case is CARC'd to FSO-6-64.***

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Please refer to SNAP manual section [602-1L](#) for ABAWD policy and SNAP manual section [602-1F](#) for Work Requirement policy. **Note:** Persons exempt from the basic SNAP work requirements are exempt from the ABAWD work requirements and time limits.

**Certification Periods**

The certification period for SNAP households that contain a member subject to the ABAWD work requirements and time limits should be the initial prorated month (if any) and all three potentially countable ABAWD months. Any month in which the household did not qualify for any federal SNAP benefits would not count as a potential ABAWD month. As explained in [SNAP MS 604-1\(A\)](#), the first month of the certification period is the first month the household is eligible for SNAP benefits.

**ABAWD WORK REQUIREMENT EXEMPT AND **NON-EXEMPT** AREAS**  
November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025

**NON-EXEMPT AREAS:**

**ANCHORAGE**

Anchorage  
Chugiak  
Eagle River  
Eklutna  
Elmendorf Air Force Base  
Fort Richardson  
Girdwood  
Indian  
Mountain View  
Peters Creek

**EXEMPT AREAS:**

**ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH**

Akutan  
Belkofski  
Cold Bay  
False Pass  
King Cove  
Nelson Lagoon  
Sand Point

**ALEUTIANS WEST CENSUS AREA**

Adak  
Atka  
Dutch Harbor  
Nikolski  
Saint George  
St Paul Island  
Unalaska

**BETHEL CENSUS AREA**

Akiachak  
Akiak  
Aniak  
Atmautluak  
Bethel  
Chefornak

Chuathbaluk  
Crooked Creek  
Eek  
Goodnews Bay  
Kalskag (Lower)  
Kalskag (Upper)  
Kasigluk  
Kipnuk  
Kongiganak  
Kwethluk  
Kwigillingok  
Lime Village  
Mekoryuk  
Napakiak  
Napaskiak  
Newtok  
Nightmute  
Nunapitchuk  
Oscarville  
Platinum  
Quinhagak  
Red Devil  
Sleetmute  
Stony River  
Toksook Bay  
Tuluksak  
Tuntutuliak  
Tununak

### **BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH**

King Salmon  
Naknek  
South Naknek

### **CHUGACH CENSUS AREA**

Chenega  
Cordova  
Tatitlek  
Valdez  
Whittier

### **COPPER RIVER CENSUS AREA**

Chistochina  
Chitina  
Copper Center  
Gakona

Glennallen  
Gulkana  
Kenny Lake  
McCarthy  
Mentasta Lake  
Paxson  
Slana  
Tazlina  
Tonsina

### **DENALI BOROUGH**

Anderson  
Cantwell  
Denali National Park  
Healy

### **DILLINGHAM CENSUS AREA**

Aleknagik  
Clarks Point  
Dillingham  
Ekuk  
Ekwok  
Koliganek  
Manokotak  
New Stuyahok  
Togiak  
Twin Hills

### **FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH**

College  
Eielson Air Force Base  
Ester  
Fairbanks  
Fox  
Ft Wainwright  
North Pole  
Salcha  
Two Rivers

### **HAINES BOROUGH**

Haines

### **JUNEAU BOROUGH**

Auke Bay  
Douglas

Funter Bay  
Juneau

### **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

Anchor Point  
Clam Gulch  
Cooper Landing  
Fritz Creek  
Halibut Cove  
Homer  
Hope  
Kasilof  
Kenai  
Moose Pass  
Nanwalek  
Nikiski  
Nikolaevsk  
Ninilchik  
Port Graham  
Seldovia  
Seward  
Soldotna  
Sterling  
Tyonek

### **KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH**

Ketchikan  
Saxman  
Ward Cove

### **KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH**

Akhiok  
Chiniak  
Karluk  
Kodiak  
Larsen Bay  
Old Harbor  
Ouzinkie  
Port Lions

### **KUSILVAK CENSUS AREA**

Alakanuk  
Chevak  
Emmonak  
Fortuna Ledge



Hooper Bay  
Kotlik  
Marshall  
Mt Village  
Nunam Iqua  
Pilot Station  
Pitka's Point  
Russian Mission  
Saint Marys  
Scammon Bay  
Sheldon Point

### **LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH**

Chignik  
Chignik Lagoon  
Chignik Lake  
Egegik  
Igiugig  
Iliamna  
Ivanoff Bay  
Kokhanok  
Levelock  
Newhalen  
Nondalton  
Pedro Bay  
Perryville  
Pilot Point  
Port Alsworth  
Port Heiden  
Ugashik

### **MAT-SU BOROUGH**

Alexander Creek  
Big Lake  
Chase  
Chickaloon  
Houston  
Palmer  
Skwentna  
Sutton  
Talkeetna  
Trapper Creek  
Wasilla  
Willow

### **NOME CENSUS AREA**

Brevig Mission  
Council  
Diomede  
Elim  
Gambell  
Golovin  
Koyuk  
Nome  
Savoonga  
Shaktolik  
Shishmaref  
Solomon  
St Michael  
Stebbins  
Teller  
Unalakleet  
Wales  
White Mountain

#### **NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH**

Anaktuvuk Pass  
Atkasuk  
Kaktovik  
Nuiqsut  
Point Hope  
Point Lay  
Utqiagvik (Barrow)  
Wainwright

#### **NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH**

Ambler  
Buckland  
Candle  
Deering  
Kiana  
Kivalina  
Kobuk  
Kotzebue  
Noatak  
Noorvik  
Selawik  
Shungnak

#### **PRINCE OF WALES CENSUS AREA**

Coffman Cove  
Craig

Edna Bay  
Hollis  
Hydaburg  
Hyder  
Kasaan  
Klawock  
Metlakatla  
Meyers Chuck  
Naukati Bay  
Point Baker  
Port Protection  
Thorne Bay  
Whale Pass

### **SITKA BOROUGH**

Sitka

### **SKAGWAY/HOONAH/ANGOON CENSUS AREA**

Angoon  
Elfin Cove  
Gustavus  
Hoonah  
Klukwan  
Pelican  
Skagway  
Tenakee

### **SOUTHEAST FAIRBANKS**

Chicken  
Delta Junction  
Dot Lake  
Eagle  
Fort Greely  
Northway  
Tanacross  
Tetlin  
Tok

### **WRANGELL/PETERSBURG CENSUS AREA**

Kake  
Petersburg  
Port Alexander  
Wrangell

### **YAKUTAT BOROUGH**

Yakutat

## **YUKON/KOYUKUK CENSUS AREA**

Allakaket

Anvik

Arctic Village

Beaver

Bettles

Birch Creek

Canyon Village

Central

Chalkyitsik

Circle

Circle Hot Springs

Clear

Coldfoot

Fort Yukon

Galena

Grayling

Holy Cross

Hughes

Huslia

Kaltag

Koyukuk

Livengood

Manley Hot Springs

McGrath

Medfra

Minchumina Lake

Minto

Nenana

Nikolai

Nulato

Rampart

Ruby

Shageluk

Stevens Village

Takotna

Tanana

Telida

Venetie

Wiseman