

Transforming Lives

Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents April 2020 Policy Changes

Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) are a subset of Basic Food recipients required to participate in specific employment related activities to maintain their assistance, per the Washington Administrative Code [388-444-0030](#). The Department of Social and Health Services annually requests waivers from the USDA Food and Nutrition Services, identifying counties or areas of the state requiring ABAWD participation, dependent on unemployment rates in comparison to the national average.

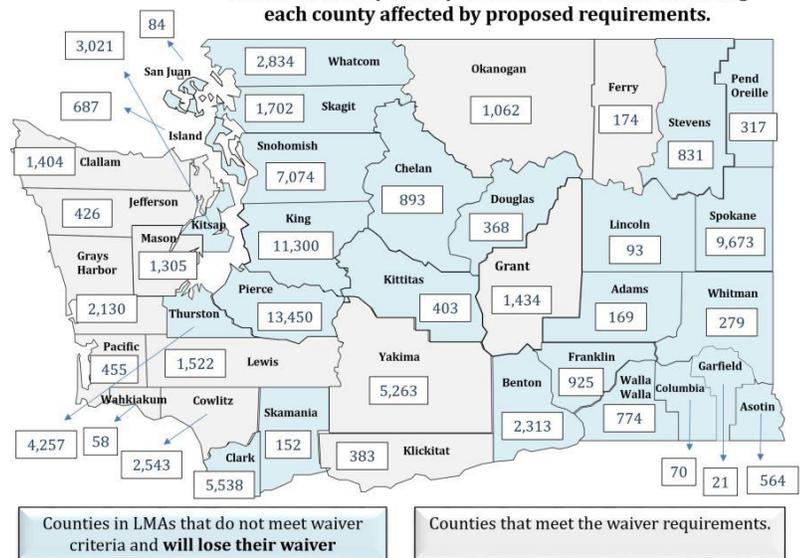
Who is an ABAWD?

An ABAWD is an able-bodied adult who:

- Is aged 18-49;
- Has no dependent children in the home;
- Is physically and mentally able to work and
- Has no exemptions from work registration.

Effective April 1, 2020, ABAWDs residing in 26 non-waived counties are required to participate in employment-related activities. ABAWDs residing in the 13 counties (refer to map) are exempt from these requirements, but encouraged to participate. This policy will affect approximately 68,000 Basic Food recipients in 2020. This does **not** mean that all ABAWDs will be terminated effective April 1.

Total ABAWDs by County as of December 2019 including each county affected by proposed requirements.



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13 Counties in Washington are Eligible for a Waiver in April 2020 under the Final Rule



State Preparations

To support ABAWD clients, the Department of Social and Health Services has established partnerships with the Employment Security Department and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. These partnerships were established to provide ABAWD Navigators who can direct clients to resources and programs to meet work requirements. DSHS eligibility staff will be responsible for referring ABAWD clients to our partners for engagement.

DSHS continues to collaborate with BFET partners to increase capacity in preparation for the change in federal regulations.

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King
Kitsap
Kittitas
Klickitat

Lewis
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Mason
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