

Department of Social and Health Services
Olympia, Washington
WAC and EAZ Manual

Revision # 867
Category Basic Food Work Requirements - ABAWD
Issued September 16, 2013
Revision Author: Bob Thibodeau
Division CSD
Mail Stop 45470
Phone 360-725-4634
Email thiborl@dshs.wa.gov

Summary

The statewide suspension of Basic Food work requirements and eligibility time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) individuals has been extended through at least September 30, 2014. The current ABAWD waiver was due to expire September 30, 2013. Updates to WAC and EAZ Manual sections have been completed to reflect the new waiver expiration date. ACES has also been programmed with the new expiration date.

Washington State received notification earlier this year from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) it is one of forty-two states that met criteria for extended unemployment benefits as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Service. As a result, non-exempt ABAWD Basic Food recipients can continue to receive benefits after three months without meeting work requirements if they are otherwise eligible.

--	--	--	--

WAC 388-444-0030

Do I have to work to be eligible for Basic Food benefits if I am an able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD)?

- (1) An able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) is a person who:
- (a) Is physically and mentally able to work;
 - (b) Is age eighteen through forty-nine; and

(c) Has no child in the household.

(2) If you are an ABAWD, you must participate in employment and training activities under subsection (4) unless you are exempt from ABAWD requirements under WAC [388-444-0035](#).

(3) Nonexempt ABAWDs who fail to participate may continue to receive food assistance until September 30, ~~2013~~2014.

(4) Beginning October 1, ~~2013~~2014, an ABAWD is not eligible to receive food assistance for more than three full months in a thirty-six month period, except as provided in WAC [388-444-0035](#), unless that person:

(a) Is exempt from ABAWD requirements under WAC [388-444-0035](#);

(b) Works at least twenty hours a week averaged monthly;

(c) Participates in on the job training (OJT), which may include paid work and classroom training time, for at least twenty hours a week;

(d) Participates in an unpaid work program as provided in WAC [388-444-0040](#); or

(e) Participates in and meets the requirements of one of the following work programs:

(i) The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA);

(ii) Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974; or

(iii) A state-approved employment and training program.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION (under WAC 388-444-0030)

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

5.....

36-Month Period

The new 36-month time limit period began January 1, 2012 and ends December 31, 2014. Another 36-month period will begin January 1, 2015.

Even though the current 36-month period is in effect, we **do not** count any month before October ~~2013~~2014 against an ABAWD's three-month time limit.

