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SNAP FAQ_001

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The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is issuing the following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to inform the community of updates to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

These changes, which include updated work requirements for many adults, were implemented this year as a result of the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBB) being signed into law.

When was the OBBB signed into law?

- The OBBB was signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on July 4, 2025.

What were the changes made to SNAP as a result of the OBBB?

- Changes were made to the eligibility of certain alien groups as well as Abled-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWDs) exceptions.
 - o The following Alien Groups are no longer eligible
 - Deportations withheld; Individuals granted asylum; Parolees
 - o ABAWD Exceptions
 - The following former exceptions to the ABAWD requirements are no longer valid
 - Homeless individuals; veterans; individuals up to age 24 who turned 18 in the foster care system
 - The following adjustments to the existing exceptions are made:
 - The age range is raised from 18-59 years of age to 18-64 years of age; the valid age for a dependent child is lowered from under 18 to under 14; and “Indian,” “Urban Indian,” and “California Indian” (as defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act) is added as a valid exemption from ABAWD work requirements.
- Because of these, some SNAP recipients will now be identified as ABAWDs and will have to comply with different requirements than that of the general SNAP applicant.

What is an ABAWD?

- Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents. This indicates an individual between the ages of 18-64, fit to work, not living with a dependent child, and applying to receive SNAP benefits.

What makes an ABAWD applicant different from a General SNAP applicant?

- In addition to the regular requirements of a General SNAP applicant, an ABAWD must also meet a general work requirement of 80 hours a month (20 hours a week) in order to receive benefits.

What work can be counted to meet the general work requirement?

- Paid employment, self-employment, volunteer work, in-kind work, participation in the SNAP Employment and Training program. You can do these in any combination in order to meet the requirement of 80 hours a month.

What is SNAP Employment and Training Program (E&T)?

- In partnership with the Guam Department of Labor, American Jobs Center, this program offers training and education opportunities, career development support, job placement assistance, case management services, and much more tailored to all SNAP participants. It's a voluntary, empowering opportunity to gain valuable experience, boost your employability, and secure long-term stability, all while keeping your benefits uninterrupted. Time spent in this program can count towards your general work requirement.

How can I apply for SNAP Employment and Training?

- Speak with your case worker about this opportunity and ask for a referral to this program.

What happens if I do not meet the general work requirement?

- If not working, an ABAWD can only receive benefits for three months within a 36 month period unless the work requirement is met.

Are there any exceptions to the ABAWD work requirement?

- Yes, certain individuals may be exempt from the work requirement and still receive benefits given they fall under the following categories:
 - Under age 18 or age 65 and older
 - Caring for a child under the age 14 or an incapacitated person of any age
 - Unable to work due to a physical or mental limitation
 - Enrolled in at least half-time in a school, college, or a training program
 - Pregnant
 - Or an Indian, Urban Indian, or Californian Indian as defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA)

When will these newly identified ABAWDs be required to meet the requirements?

- Starting January 1, 2026. DPHSS has already sent out notifications to all affected households.

Will my benefits be affected immediately on January 1, 2026?

- No, ABAWD SNAP recipients will have three months to meet the work requirements. During this time their benefits will go unaffected. However, if they have still not met the work requirements by the third month, their benefits will be terminated.

What do I do if I was contacted as an ABAWD but I have a dependent?

- Please email centralbes@dphss.guam.gov with the subject line: **ABAWD Letter Inquiry.**

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