



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
*DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT*



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
MAGA'HAGAN GUÁHAN  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
SEGUNDO MAGA'LÁHEN GUÁHAN  
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA  
DIRECTOR

PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESS RELEASE PR26-097**

May 21, 2026

**REMINDER: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Work Requirement Changes for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Effective June 1, 2026**

Hagåtña, Guam — The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is issuing a reminder regarding upcoming changes to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). SNAP benefits might end for individuals identified as ABAWDs who do not meet work requirements and do not qualify for an exemption, **effective June 1, 2026**.

In July 2025, new SNAP work requirements were introduced as part of the H.R. 1. As a result, some SNAP recipients who were previously exempt could now be required to comply with ABAWD work requirements. In December 2025, DPHSS mailed out notification letters to those that might be affected. SNAP recipients who are unsure if their eligibility status will be affected by the ABAWD changes should contact the Bureau of Economic Security (BES) at (671) 300-8853/8872 or email [centralbes@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:centralbes@dphss.guam.gov) for additional support.

**How ABAWD rules affect your SNAP Benefits**

If you are identified as an ABAWD, your SNAP benefits are limited to three (3) months within a thirty-six (36) month period unless you meet one of the following work requirements:

- Work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly (or 80 hours per month)
- Participate 80 hours per month in an approved work program, such as the Guam SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Program, or other approved education or training activities
- Work and/or participate in a work program for a combined total of at least 20 hours per week

**You might be exempt if any of the following apply to you:**

- You are under 18 or age 65 or older
- You are medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment
- You are responsible for a dependent child under age 14 or an incapacitated person who is a member of your SNAP household.
- You are exempt from SNAP general work requirements (unless you are age 60 – 64 and not otherwise exempt)
- You are pregnant
- You are an “Indian,” “Urban Indian,” or “California Indian” as defined under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act

**Take action now to keep your benefits**

You must meet SNAP work requirements before June 1, 2026, to continue receiving SNAP benefits without interruption. Voluntarily participating in the SNAP E&T program is an option that can help you meet work requirements, build skills, get training, move towards stable employment, and maintain your benefits.

**If you meet any of the exemptions** listed above, you will need to submit proof. Examples of acceptable documentation include:

- Employment verification, if you are currently working 20 hours a week or 80 hours per month.
- A doctor’s certification indicating you are physically or mentally unfit for employment or verification that you are pregnant
- Proof of enrollment or attendance in a training or education program
- Proof of performing 20 hours per week of volunteer work at places such as non-profit organizations, religious institutions, and similar entities (these are some examples)

Please ensure your documentation is submitted promptly to avoid any disruption to your benefits.

**Need help or more information?**

For more information about the ABAWD work requirement changes or the Guam SNAP E&T Program, please review the attached FAQ or contact the DPHSS Division of Public Welfare, BES at (671) 300-8853/8872 or via email at [centralbes@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:centralbes@dphss.guam.gov) with the email subject line “ABAWD Question”.

#####