




FIA INFORMATION MEMO

Control Number: 20-11	Effective Date: January 1, 2020
	Issuance Date: 12/23/19

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS**

FROM: NETSANET KIBRET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 

**RE: WAIVED ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS TIME
LIMIT (ABAWD) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

Summary

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has approved Maryland’s request to continue to waive its current 13 jurisdictions from the ABAWD time limit. The waiver, however, ends March 31, 2020 due to the issuance of a new federal regulation that will take effect on April 1, 2020.

Information

Maryland will continue to waive the 13 jurisdictions that were ABAWD time-limit-waived for calendar year 2019 through March, 31, 2020. The 13 jurisdictions are:

<u>ABAWD – EXEMPT JURISDICTIONS</u>	<u>ABAWD– MANDATORY JURISDICTIONS</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allegany County 2. Baltimore City 3. Caroline County 4. Cecil County 5. Dorchester County 6. Garrett County 7. Harford County 8. Kent County 9. Queen Anne’s County 10. Somerset County 11. Talbot County 12. Wicomico County 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anne Arundel County 2. Baltimore County 3. Calvert County 4. Carroll County 5. Charles County 6. Frederick County 7. Howard County 8. Montgomery County 9. Prince George’s County 10. St. Mary’s County 11. Washington County

13. Worcester County

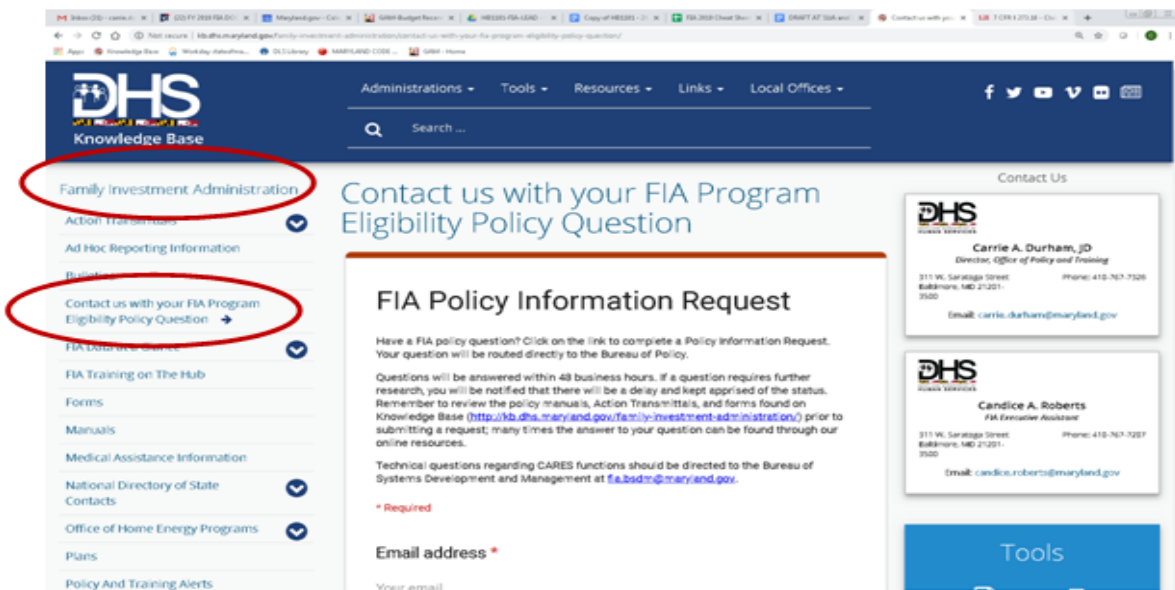
The current procedures on ABAWD throughout the State will remain unchanged until April 1, 2020.

On December 6, 2020, FNS finalized its proposed rule that was first published on February 1, 2019. The new rule revises the conditions under which FNS would waive, when requested by States, ABAWD time limits in areas that have unemployment rate of over 10 percent or a lack of sufficient jobs. In addition, the rule limits carryover ABAWD discretionary exemptions.

Under the new rule, which is to be implemented April 1, 2020, Maryland anticipates that the majority, if not all, currently waived jurisdictions will lose their waiver from the time limit – resulting in all ABAWDs in those jurisdictions becoming subject to work requirements. FIA is monitoring this new rule closely and will issue more information and direction closer to April 1, 2020.

Inquiries

For policy-related questions, please complete the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#) found on Knowledge Base as shown in the screenshot below.



For CARES/systems questions, please contact fia.bsdm@maryland.gov.

cc: DHS Executive Staff
FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services

DHS Help Desk
Office of Administrative Hearings