

SNAP Work Rules Screening Checklists

SNAP State agencies must establish procedures to screen for and apply the general work requirements and able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) work requirement and time limit. This resource can help you determine if someone meets an exemption or exception or must meet work requirements.

General Work Requirements Exemptions ([7 CFR § 273.7\(b\)](#))

An individual who does not meet an exemption must comply with the general work requirements.

- The individual is exempt from the general work requirements if they are any of the following:**
- Younger than age 16, or age 60 or older
- Responsible for the care of a child under age 6 or a person who needs help caring for themselves
- Working 30 hours or more a week or earning at least \$217.50 a week
- Receiving or have applied for unemployment benefits
- Experiencing physical or mental barriers to work (as defined by the State Agency)
Remember to discuss this exemption thoroughly and comprehensively with the household
- Going to school, college, or training program at least half time
- Meeting the work rules for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program

Screening Tips

Avoid Over-Burdening Clients

Use information from the application, case file, and data matches to see if a client meets an exemption.

Listen to the Client

Follow interview best practices: prepare for the discussion with well-thought-out questions and actively listen. Learn more: [State SNAP Interview Toolkit](#).

ABAWD Work Requirement/Time Limit Exceptions ([Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023](#) and [7 CFR § 273.24\(c\)](#))

If the State agency determines a SNAP household is subject to the general work requirements, it must then determine if the individual is also subject to the ABAWD work requirement/time limit or if they meet an exception. Individuals that are subject to the ABAWD work requirement/time limit must either work (including volunteering and in-kind work) or participate in a work program, or any combination, for 80 hours a month, or participate in workfare for the number of hours assigned each month.

- The individual is exempt from the ABAWD work requirement if they are any of the following:**
- Exempt from the general work requirements (see checklist above)
- Living in an area where the ABAWD time limits are waived
- Under 18 years old or older than the age limit for the Federal fiscal year*
- Living with someone under 18 in their SNAP household
- Experiencing homelessness
- A veteran
- Age 24 or younger and in foster care when they were age 18
- Receiving temporary or permanent disability benefits
- Experiencing physical or mental barriers to work (barrier may be observable)
Remember to discuss this exemption thoroughly and comprehensively with the household
- Pregnant

Screening Tips

ABAWDs Facing Physical/Mental Barriers

Screen for indicators of barriers.

- Periodic unemployment
- Needs medical or mental health care
- Recent hospitalization or injury

Ask follow-up questions.

- Identify if lack of employment is due to physical or mental conditions

Consider collateral contacts if barrier is not obvious.

*ABAWD Age-Based Exception Chart

October 2023 – September 2024	October 2024 – September 2030
Age 53 or older	Age 55 or older

SNAP Work Rules Screening Flow

