



Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

**OCT 23 2015**

Park Office  
Center

3101 Park  
Center Drive  
Alexandria  
VA 22302

**SUBJECT:** SNAP – Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Allocations of 15 Percent Exemptions for Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) – Not Adjusted for Carryover

**TO:** All Regional Directors  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) limits the time able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) may participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to 3 months in any 36-month period, unless an individual fulfills certain work requirements or is otherwise exempt from the time limit. However, the Act and SNAP regulations allocate a number of monthly exemptions to the ABAWD time limit for each fiscal year, based on 15 percent of a State's projected ABAWD caseload.

This memorandum provides the number of new 15 percent exemptions available to each State in fiscal year (FY) 2016. States that operated under a statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit for the duration of FY 2015 did not earn any new 15 percent exemptions. Once States submit final exemptions usage data for FY 2015, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will issue another memorandum providing the total number of exemptions available to each State for FY 2016.

FNS anticipates that few States will be eligible for Statewide ABAWD time limit waivers beyond calendar year 2015, and strongly urges States to consider creative strategies to use exemptions as they transition off of these waivers. For example, a State with an excess of exemptions may choose to exempt all ABAWDs in the State from the time limit until the next contact with the household (e.g., at the periodic report or recertification).

While States have maximum flexibility in how they apply these exemptions, they must track the number of exemptions used each month and report this number to their respective regional office using the FNS-583 form on a quarterly basis. For Quality Control purposes, exemptions must be documented in the case file prior to monthly sample selection.

All Regional Directors  
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Please advise your State agencies of the number of new exemptions available to them for FY 2016. If you have any questions or require any technical assistance concerning this memorandum, please contact Eliot Kriviski at [Eliot.Kriviski@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Eliot.Kriviski@fns.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sasha Gersten-Paal" followed by a flourish.

Sasha Gersten-Paal  
Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

Attachment

	<b>FY 2016 New 15% Monthly Exemptions Earned for FY 2016 (DOES NOT INCLUDE ADJUSTMENTS OR CARRY OVER)</b>
<b>State</b>	
Alabama	-
Alaska	-
Arizona	-
Arkansas	-
California	-
Colorado	6,192
Connecticut	-
Delaware	5,472
Dist. of Col.	-
Florida	-
Georgia	-
Guam	-
Hawaii	13,788
Idaho	-
Illinois	-
Indiana	39,708
Iowa	14,652
Kansas	9,636
Kentucky	-
Louisiana	2,028
Maine	14,604
Maryland	-
Massachusetts	-
Michigan	-
Minnesota	22,500
Mississippi	-
Missouri	-
Montana	5,352
Nebraska	7,200
Nevada	-
New Hampshire	1,980
New Jersey	-
New Mexico	-
New York	-
North Carolina	-
North Dakota	2,748
Ohio	74,760
Oklahoma	33,228
Oregon	-
Pennsylvania	-

State	<b>FY 2016 New 15% Monthly Exemptions  Earned for FY 2016  (DOES NOT INCLUDE ADJUSTMENTS OR CARRY OVER)</b>
Rhode Island	-
South Carolina	-
South Dakota	2,952
Tennessee	-
Texas	166,476
Utah	6,732
Vermont	6,300
Virginia	45,408
Virgin Islands	-
Washington	-
West Virginia	-
Wisconsin	3,012
Wyoming	2,220