



OCT 07 2016

United States Department of Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

**SUBJECT:** SNAP – Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Allocations of 15 Percent Exemptions for Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) – Not Adjusted for Carryover

Park Office  
Center

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

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Alexandria VA  
22302

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act), as amended, limits the time able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) 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 at 7 CFR 273.24 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 estimated number of new 15 percent exemptions each State has earned for fiscal year (FY) 2017. States that operated under a statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit for the duration of FY 2016 did not earn any new exemptions. Once final FY 2016 data is available, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will issue another memorandum providing the total number of exemptions available to each State for FY 2017 based on caseload adjustments and the exemptions used in FY2016.

As economic conditions have improved and unemployment rates have gone down, fewer States are now eligible for and requesting to waive the time limit Statewide. States have the discretion to use exemptions as they see fit. FNS encourages States to consider innovative, yet targeted, strategies that protect program access for ABAWDs who continue to face barriers to employment and other vulnerable ABAWD populations.

While States have great flexibility in applying exemptions, States must track and report the amount of exemptions used each month on a quarterly basis to their respective FNS regional office via the FNS-583 form. In addition, exemptions must be properly documented in case files prior to monthly Quality Control sample selections.

Please advise your State agencies of the number of new exemptions earned for FY 2017. If State agencies have any questions concerning this memorandum, please contact your respective FNS Regional Office representative. If Regional Office staff requires any technical assistance, please contact Eliot DeLaCruz Kriviski at [Eliot.Kriviski@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Eliot.Kriviski@fns.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal  
Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

Attachment

<b>State</b>	<b>New 15% Monthly Exemptions Earned for FY 2017 (Does Not Include Adjustments or Carry Over)</b>
Alabama	48,120
Alaska	-
Arizona	22,764
Arkansas	23,136
California	-
Colorado	12,192
Connecticut	14,676
Delaware	5,352
Dist. of Col.	-
Florida	176,508
Georgia	11,124
Guam	-
Hawaii	12,828
Idaho	7,704
Illinois	-
Indiana	35,808
Iowa	14,172
Kansas	8,964
Kentucky	17,160
Louisiana	-
Maine	13,392
Maryland	18,048
Massachusetts	23,640
Michigan	-
Minnesota	21,360
Mississippi	35,472
Missouri	56,208
Montana	5,280
Nebraska	7,332
Nevada	-
New Hampshire	1,848
New Jersey	4,344
New Mexico	-
New York	68,172
North Carolina	81,624
North Dakota	2,448
Ohio	71,868
Oklahoma	33,996
Oregon	23,880
Pennsylvania	93,564

<b>State</b>	<b>FY 2017 New 15% Monthly Exemptions Earned for FY 2017 (DOES NOT INCLUDE ADJUSTMENTS OR CARRY OVER)</b>
Rhode Island	-
South Carolina	29,448
South Dakota	2,832
Tennessee	18,828
Texas	166,740
Utah	6,552
Vermont	5,736
Virginia	38,376
Virgin Islands	-
Washington	26,784
West Virginia	10,788
Wisconsin	29,496
Wyoming	2,280