



ABAWD Work Requirements

What You Need to Know

Effective February 1, 2009, Georgia was approved for a statewide waiver due to the economic downturn. ABAWDs who lived in Georgia were waived from the three (3) month time-limit. The waiver eliminated the 3 of 36-month time limitation for receipt of food stamp benefits and the requirement to participate in employment and training activities.

Georgia's ABAWD Time-Limit Waiver expired on December 31, 2015. Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) are allowed to receive benefits for three (3) months in a 36 month period without meeting an ABAWD work requirement. The food stamp benefits are time-limited and will expire unless the individual meets a work registration or participation exemption from the ABAWD work requirement or participates in a qualifying E&T work activity.

Who is an ABAWD?

ABAWDs are:

- Between the ages of 18-49 years;
- **Not** pregnant;
- **Not** residing in a household where a household member is under age 18, even if the household member who is under 18 is not eligible for food stamps;
- Mentally and physically fit for employment.

You may be exempt from ABAWD work requirements, if you meet one of the following criteria:

- Under 18 or 50 years of age or older;
- Determined by the State agency to be medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment. An individual is medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment if he or she:
 - Is receiving temporary or permanent disability benefits issued by governmental or private sources;
 - Is obviously mentally or physically unfit for employment as determined by the State agency; or
 - If the unfitness is not obvious, provides a statement from a physician, physician's assistant, nurse, nurse practitioner, designated representative of the physician's office, a licensed or certified psychologist, a social worker, or any other medical personnel the State agency determines appropriate, that he or she is physically or mentally unfit for employment.
- Is a parent (natural, adoptive, or step) of a household member under age 18, even if the household member who is under 18 is not eligible for food stamps;
- Is residing in a household with a household member under age 18, even if the household member under 18 is not eligible for food stamp benefits;
- Is pregnant.

How can an ABAWD meet the work requirements?

There are several qualifying activities an ABAWD can participate in to meet their work requirements:

- Working (employment or self-employment) an average of 20 hours per week, 80 hours per month (*work hours can include hours in lieu of pay, such as work in exchange for rent, etc.*);
- Participating in an allowable education or training activity for at least 20 hours per week, 80 hours per month;
- Participating in an allowable supervised nonprofit work experience, community or volunteer service program, at the required number of hours per month;
- Participating in a work investment and opportunity act (WIOA) training program;
- Participating in a combination of the above activities, **see your SNAP Works Case Manager for more details.**



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What work training programs are available?

- More information on allowable work training programs is available from the Georgia Department of Labor, please visit <http://www.dol.ga.state.ga.us> for more information.

How does an ABAWD participate in work-for-benefits?

- ABAWDs can choose to “work for benefits” by volunteering at a non-profit to earn their food stamp monthly benefit. The number of hours required is determined by dividing the ABAWD’s household monthly food stamp allotment by the Federal minimum wage (\$7.25). ABAWDs can call their local SNAP Works case manager to find out how many hours they must volunteer. **Please note: Worker’s Compensation Insurance Coverage is available for ABAWDs participating in workfare.**
- ABAWDs must submit a completed form 516 Attendance Record to their SNAP Works case manager by the 5th of each month to avoid interruptions in food stamp benefits. You may call your local SNAP Works case manager office to request copies of the form.
- To find work-for-benefits volunteer opportunities in your area, dial 2-1-1 or connect with your local United Way Center, or see your SNAP Works case manager for assistance in enrolling in an activity.

How does an ABAWD verify he or she is meeting the work requirements?

- ABAWDs must show proof of completing work for benefits every month by turning in a completed 516 or 517 by the 5th of the month for the prior month.
- ABAWDs meeting the work requirements **through employment must** verify employment in the initial month of working, but do not need to provide proof each month; however, verification of employment must be provided at each recertification interview.
- ABAWDs meeting the work requirements through participation in a work training program must show proof of participation each month by turning in a completed Form 517 by the 5th of the month for the prior month to their SNAP Works case manager.

What else should I know?

- All ABAWDs will be able to receive benefits for another 3 months without meeting the work requirements on December 1, 2017, whether or not they met a work requirement.
- ABAWDs who fail, without good cause, or refuse to cooperate with ABAWD work requirements may be sanctioned. The minimum sanction periods are as follows: 1st violation is 1 month, 2nd violation is 3 months and the 3rd or subsequent violation is 6 months.
- ABAWDs must report if/when their employment hours fall below 20 hours per week/an average of 80 hours monthly.
- If you have more questions, or think you should be exempt from meeting the work requirements, please contact your local SNAP Works case manager.

Cobb County: Ms. Lewis 770-528-5057

Hall County: Mr. Ryder 770-532-5236

**Gwinnett County: Ms. Costa 678-518-5552
Ms. Branch 678-518-5545
Ms. Hicks 678-518-5516**