



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

KARYN POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

Online Guide Transmittal 2016-1
January 4, 2016

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From: *AOS* Anne O'Sullivan, Assistant Commissioner for Change Management
Re: SNAP: ABAWD Work Program Requirement

Overview

Massachusetts has operated under a statewide waiver of the ABAWD Work Program requirement and time limited benefits since June 2008. This waiver expired on December 31, 2015.

This Transmittal informs staff of several updates to the Online Guide which pertain to ABAWD clients. New pages have been created to explain community service compliance responsibilities and to clarify that work program sanctions (or strikes) are automated by BEACON, with the exception of out-of-state strikes, which must be entered manually.

The Work Requirements Screening page has been updated to advise staff that when a homeless client responds to screening questions with two or more trigger answers, they will become exempted from the ABAWD Work Program (WP) requirement. Additionally, beginning in January, if a homeless client indicates that they do not have a stable nighttime residence, they will be exempted from the ABAWD WP requirement because FNS has recognized chronic homelessness as a sufficient exemption reason.

**Overview
(continued)**

The Verifications page has been updated to explain that ABAWD verifications must be provided to claim an exemption or to verify compliance, but specifies that these verifications are not mandatory for case processing.

Several pages from the Online Guide have been updated to emphasize the importance of documenting complete and accurate information in the Electronic Case Folder as they impact ABAWD compliance and exemptions.

Additional information regarding the upcoming ABAWD Work Program requirement will be forthcoming.

**Updated Online
Guide Pages**

Topic:	SNAP
Book:	Work Requirements
Chapter:	ABAWD Work Program Requirement
Page:	ABAWD Work Program Exemptions
Topic:	SNAP
Book:	Work Requirements
Chapter:	ABAWD Work Program Requirement
Page:	ABAWD Work Program Participation
Topic:	SNAP
Book:	Work Requirements
Chapter:	ABAWD Work Program Requirement
Page:	ABAWD Work Program Requirement Overview
Topic:	SNAP
Book:	SNAP Verifications
Page:	SNAP Verifications Overview
Topic:	SNAP
Book:	Eligibility Requirements
Chapter:	Income
Subchapter:	Entering Earned Income Data
Page:	Earnings Tab
Topic:	SNAP
Book:	Eligibility Requirements
Chapter:	Students
Page:	Students

**Updated Online
Guide Pages
(continued)**

Topic: SNAP
Book: Work Requirements
Chapter: ABAWD Work Program Requirement
Page: Work Requirements Screening Page

**New Online
Guide Pages**

Topic: SNAP
Book: Work Requirements
Chapter: ABAWD Work Program Requirement
Page: ABAWD Work Program Sanctions

Topic: SNAP
Book: Work Requirements
Chapter: ABAWD Work Program Requirement
Page: Community Service Compliance

Questions

If you have any questions, please email the DTA Mailbox.
Systems questions should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
