



Mississippi Department of Human Services Press Release

Media Contact: Paul Nelson
Phone: 601-359-4517
Release Date: 1/8/2016

SNAP Time Limit and ABAWD Work Requirements

(Jackson, Miss.) – Mississippi chose to implement a mandatory Employment and Training program effective January 1, 2016 to serve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients who are categorized as Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) and do not qualify for an exemption from the work requirements.

ABAWDs are individuals between the ages of 18-49 and are required to participate satisfactorily in qualifying employment and training activities to maintain SNAP eligibility. Individuals who fail to meet the ABAWD work requirement, without good cause, will be restricted to receiving SNAP benefits for three months within a 36 month period. Individuals meeting an exemption are not subject to the time limit.

Exempt individuals include pregnant women, individuals working 30 or more hours per week, and individuals mentally or physically unable to work. Qualifying Employment and Training activities consist of Education and/or Training activities; Workfare (community service with a public or private nonprofit organization); and Comparable Workfare (community service activities initiated by the participant); and employment.

The staff of the Mississippi Department of Human Services is dedicated to assisting the ABAWD population with finding employment or placing them in a workfare component to assist them with maintaining SNAP eligibility.

SNAP households that may be affected by this policy change were notified in November and December 2015 regarding the change in policy. The notice encouraged households to contact their MDHS county office to comply with the new policy or verify their exemption status to prevent a possible disruption or reduction in benefits.

MDHS staff is working in their local communities to develop placement opportunities to help ABAWDs meet their work requirements. A \$50 transportation stipend is available to assist with transportation cost, if needed. The agency's focus is to help individuals access the necessary training needed to become competitive in the job market.

###