
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

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CHANGE #01-2024

MARCH 01, 2024

260.00 WHAT IS AN ABLE-BODIED ADULT WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD)?

Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) can only receive FNS for only three months in a three (3)-year period if they do not meet certain extra work requirements. This is called the ABAWD time limit.

The law allows states to ask FNS to temporarily waive the ABAWD time limit based on evidence showing that an area has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent or does not have a sufficient number of jobs. An ABAWD time limit waiver does not waive the general FNS work requirements.

- A. Effective September 1, 2023, the age requirement will change to age 18 - 50 years of age.
- B. Effective October 1, 2023, the age requirement will change to age 18 - 52 years of age.
- C. Effective October 1, 2024, the age requirement will change to age 18 - 54 years of age.

ABAWD eligibility for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is limited to any three (3) months in a 36-month period (considered the 3-month time limit) unless the individual meets the ABAWD general FNS work requirements (defined below) or qualifies for a second 3-month period of eligibility.

ABAWD requirements do not replace any other eligibility requirements, nor do they create eligibility where it does not otherwise exist.

While ABAWD, Employment & Training, and Work Registration policies are related to each other, each are applied individually. Non-exempt FNS unit members will continue to be subject to the general FNS work requirements described in [FNS 240 Work Registration Requirements](#) regardless of whether they are exempt from the ABAWD FNS work requirements.

260.01 WHO IS EXEMPT FROM THE ABAWD TIME-LIMIT?

An individual that meets at least one of the exemptions listed in this section is **not** subject to the ABAWD time-limit. If an individual is exempt for any part of the month, the individual is exempt for the entire month.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

- A. Under the age requirements
 - 1. The ABAWD FNS work requirement no longer applies beginning the first day of the month when the individual is over the age requirement.
- B. Member of an FNS unit containing a member who is under age 18:
 - 1. The individual is not required to be the parent of the child.
 - 2. The individual is not required to be responsible for the child.
 - 3. The child can be an ineligible member of the FNS household for any reason (such as but not limited to being an ineligible alien).
 - 4. The child can be temporarily absent from the home (no longer than 30 days).
- C. Pregnant
 - 1. There is no minimum length of pregnancy to meet the exemption. The exception is effective beginning the month of conception, includes the month of the child's birth and applies until the individual is no longer pregnant.
 - a. Verification: Client statement is sufficient, unless questionable. An individual must be allowed 10 days to provide verification if required. A medical statement verifying pregnancy will be necessary if the pregnancy is not obvious.
- D. Exempt from FNS work requirements described in policy manual section FNS 240 Work Registration Requirements
 - 1. Follow the policy manual section [FNS 240 Work Registration Requirements](#) for verification requirements for this exemption.
 - 2. FNS work requirements and ABAWD requirements are two separate policies that while related to each other also stand alone.
- E. Unfit for employment (even if temporarily) for one of the following reasons:
 - 1. Receiving public or private disability benefits such as:
 - a. Workers' compensation and other temporary disability benefits.
 - b. Medicaid based on disability.
 - c. Social Security or Veterans Benefits (regardless of VA disability percentage).

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

2. Obviously unfit for work based on worker's observation or judgment. If the medical condition is obvious, document in North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST).
 3. Medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment.
 - a. Confirm by a medical professional's statement if not obvious.
 - b. Accept a medical statement from a doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, designated representative at a doctor's office, or other appropriate medical personnel.
 4. Homeless means an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence or an individual whose primary nighttime residence is:
 - a. A supervised shelter designed to provide temporary accommodations (such as a welfare hotel or congregate shelter);
 - b. A halfway house or similar institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
 - c. A temporary accommodation for not more than 90 days in the residence of another individual; or
 - d. A place not designed for, or ordinarily used, as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (a hallway, a bus station, a lobby, or similar places).
 - e. Note: Chronic homelessness is no longer a requirement.
- F. Unfit for employment due to alcohol or drug dependence addiction.**
1. The ABAWD's involvement in alcohol / drug treatment is not required.
 - a. Accept written or verbal statement of a Medical Professional, Social Worker, Counselor, etc. that the ABAWD's alcohol / drug dependence negatively affects the individual's fitness for work.
 - b. Accept applicant's statement for those who are not in treatment, if no other sources are available.
- G. Exempt a refugee who is subject to work requirements imposed by a Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) such as the Indochinese Refugee Assistance Program (IRAP).**
1. Note: The "refugee" must be participating in employment services that is either by a local Department of Social Services or Refugee specific

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

Services Providers that is approved, funded or operated by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

- H. Foster Care - Individuals who are 24 years of age or younger and in Foster Care on their 18th birthday.
- I. Veterans are defined as individuals who served in the United States Armed Forces (such as Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard), including an individual who served in a reserve component of the Armed Forces, and who was discharged or released therefrom, regardless of the conditions of such discharge or release.
 - 1. Note: If the information is questionable, examples of verification that State agencies could use to verify include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Homeless individuals - Collateral contact with a homeless shelter, person they are staying with, or any other individual aware of the individual's circumstances.
 - b. Veterans - Service department records, such as a DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, original Certificate of Discharge, Report of Transfer or Discharge, military ID card indicating service in the armed forces; Correspondence or contact from the Department of Veteran Affairs including benefit payment or award letter or VA ID Card; correspondence or contact from the Department of Veteran Affairs indicating service in the armed forces, or driver's license indicating veteran status.
 - c. Youth aging out of foster care – Data sharing and/or collateral contact from other social service workers or agencies, such as the agency administering the foster care program or Medicaid.
 - d. Note: As a reminder, if verification is required agencies may accept multiple forms of documentary evidence. Homeless individuals and households are specifically exempted from the requirement to verify residency.

260.02 DETERMINING COUNTABLE MONTHS

North Carolina uses a fixed clock to measure the 36-month period. The current fixed clock is a three-year period which is January 1st, through December 31st. The 36-month period runs continuously without a break, regardless of whether the individual receives FNS benefits and regardless of whether the county is under an ABAWD waiver for some or all of those months.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

- A. 3-month participation time limit. ABAWDs are limited to receiving 3 countable months of FNS benefits during the 3-year period unless they qualify for a second 3-month period.
1. The 3-month limit is cumulative.
 2. Only countable months can be used to meet the 3-month limit.
 3. Countable months are not required to be consecutive and can be used any time during the fixed 36-month period.
 4. ABAWDs are required to meet an additional FNS work requirement as a condition of FNS eligibility. ABAWDs are required to report when they experience a reduction in work hours below 20 hours per week or 80 hours a month within 10 days of the date the hours drop or work hours became known to the household.
- B. Overpayments. If a non-exempt ABAWD receives more than 3 countable months, explore referral for overpayment if the household fails to report or fails to report timely. Do not explore overpayments for non-countable months or months that the individual is exempt from ABAWD requirements.

It is possible for individuals to receive more than 3 countable months. An over issuance is not created under the following situations:

1. If a change is reported timely or discovered within the household's reporting timeframe that requires a Notice of Adverse Action and there is not sufficient time to decrease or terminate benefits prior to the next month.
2. If a non-reportable change is reported or discovered.
3. If the applicant was a resident of an ABAWD waiver county in the month of issuance.

260.03 COUNTABLE & NON-COUNTABLE ABAWD MONTHS

- A. Countable ABAWD months. Each month of the ABAWD's participation must be evaluated individually. If the individual is exempt for one day or more, she/he is exempt for the entire month.

Countable ABAWD month is any month that the individual:

1. Received a full month (not prorated) of FNS benefits; and
2. Was not exempt from ABAWD requirements.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

- B. Non-countable ABAWD months. Any month in which the individual meets at least one of the following conditions is considered non-countable and does not count toward the ABAWDS 3-month limit.
1. Prorated months.
 2. Any month in which the individual meets at least one of the following ABAWD Work Requirements:
 - a. Working an average of 20 hours per week (80 hours in the month). Consider an ABAWD to have met the 80 hours per month rule when the hours worked are at least 80 hours. ABAWDs are required to report changes by the 10th of the month following the month of change when the number of hours working reduce below 20 hours a week or 80 hours less per month regardless of simplified reporting requirements.
 3. Work can be:
 - a. Paid employment regardless of earnings.
 - i. Request verification of income and hours worked.
 - ii. Document the number of hours worked in NC FAST.
 - b. Self-employment regardless of earnings.
 - i. Request the applicant's statement of hours worked per month if the individual is self-employed.
 - c. Volunteer work (approved by the counties) in a public or private organization.
 - i. Accept volunteer work for any legitimate public/private nonprofit, churches or other religious groups, community organizations or governmental agency or community service ordered by a court.
 - ii. Request written or verbal verification from the agency of the number of hours volunteered in that month.
 - d. Work in exchange for goods or services (such as but not limited to, work in exchange for a place to live).
 - i. Request written or verbal verification of the number of hours worked in that month. Document in NC FAST.
 - e. Any combination of the above.
- C. Good Cause

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

1. If an ABAWD would have worked 80 hours in the month but missed some work for good cause, the individual shall be considered to have met the ABAWD work requirements if the absence from work is temporary and the individual retains his/her job. Refer to policy manual section [255 Voluntary Quit and Voluntary Reduction](#) for good cause policy guidance.
2. Good cause shall include circumstances beyond the individual's control, such as, but not limited to, illness of the individual, illness of another household affecting the individual's ability to work, a household emergency, or the unavailability of transportation. Refer to policy manual section [255 Voluntary Quit and Voluntary Reduction](#) for good cause policy guidance.
3. Participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program for an average of 20 hours per week (80 hours per month) including:
 - a. A program under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA);
 - b. A program under Trade Adjustment Assistance Act Program (TAA);
 - c. A program that includes qualifying ABAWD activities so long as job search and/or job search training is less than half hours required by of the program (See chart below).
 - d. ABAWDs are not required to participate in a work program for longer than the 20 hours per week to fulfill the ABAWD work requirement. However, if the ABAWD has been referred to an E&T program in order to fulfill the ABAWD work requirement, the E&T program may require additional hours of participation.
 - e. An ABAWDs total hours of required participation in E&T, together with any hours worked for compensation in cash or in-kind (including work experience) cannot exceed 120 hours per month. Participants may volunteer for additional hours of training.
 - f. ABAWDs participating in a work program can combine job search and/or job search training (9 hours maximum) with other ABAWD qualifying activities to allow ABAWDs to meet the 20-hour weekly work requirement (See chart below).

D. Qualifying Work Program Activities:

Qualifying Component	Description	Hours required per week
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FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

<p>WIOA (WIA) programs</p>	<p>The goal is to increase opportunities for employment, education, and training. Can include job search, occupational skills training, on-the-job training, job readiness training, adult education and literacy activities, etc.</p>	<p>20 hours</p>
<p>A program under section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974</p> <p>Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA):</p>	<p>Training programs for workers that have lost or may lose their jobs</p> <p>Provides aid to workers who have lost their jobs as a result of foreign trade.</p>	<p>20 hours</p>
<p>E&T education or training</p>	<p>Aims to improve basic skills or employability and have a direct link to employment. Can include basic education, vocational or technical training, and on-the-job training. Job search activities must be less than half of required hours. Activities must be described in State SNAP E&T Plan.</p>	<p>20 hours, alone or combined with other activities</p>
<p>E&T work experience</p>	<p>Designed to improve the employability of participant through actual work experience and/or training; placements can be with private, for-profit companies. Placements at public and private sector employers. Can include for-profit employers. Activities must be described in State SNAP E&T Plan.</p>	<p>20 hours, alone or combined with other activities. Mandatory unpaid work hours equal to the result obtained by dividing a household's SNAP allotment by the higher of the applicable Federal or State minimum wage.</p>

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

1. Note: North Carolina currently has no counties operating in FNS Workfare program. Policy will be updated to reflect Workfare participation if any county initiates a FNS Workfare program in the future.

260.04 REGAINING ABAWD ELIGIBILITY

- A. ABAWDs can regain eligibility to participate in FNS if s/he:
 1. Worked (paid and unpaid) 80 hours or more in a 30-day period; or
 2. Participated in and complied with the requirements of a work program for 80 or more hours in a 30-day period; or
 3. Any combination of work and participation in a work program for a total of 80 hours or participated in and complied with a workfare program in a 30-day period;
 4. Becomes exempt from ABAWD FNS work requirements; or
 5. The 36 months (3-year) period expires.
- B. Bonus Months. ABAWDs who have regained eligibility and are not meeting the FNS work requirements outlined in 260.04 B 2 can gain an additional 3 consecutive months once during the 3-year period of eligibility. These months are known as Bonus months.
 1. Bonus months:
 - a. Apply only to ABAWDs who regained eligibility but are no longer fulfilling the FNS work requirement.
 - b. Must be consecutive months.
 - c. Only full months of benefits count toward the Bonus months.
 2. Bonus months start dates:
 - a. If the individual was working, the consecutive 3 months must start when the participant reports that he or she is no longer in compliance with ABAWD FNS work requirements.
 - b. If the individual was participating in a work program, the consecutive 3 months will start when it is determined the ABAWD is no longer in compliance.
- C. An individual regaining eligibility shall have benefits calculated as follows:

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

1. For individuals regaining eligibility through eligibility for 3 bonus months, prorate benefits from the day the 30 days of work were completed or from the date of application (whichever comes last).
2. For individuals regaining eligibility through a new 36-month period, beginning with the first month covered by the application in the new 36-month period.
3. For individuals regaining eligibility because currently exempt, beginning with the first month covered by the application in which an ABAWD exemption is met for at least part of the month.
4. For individuals regaining eligibility because now working, beginning with the first month covered by the application in which the individual is working.

260.05 APPLICATION / REAPPLICATION / RECERTIFICATION / CHANGE

- A. At application the caseworker must explain all ABAWD requirements to the household including:
 1. Which household members are subject to the ABAWD requirements currently;
 2. Working an average of 20 hours per week (80 hours in the month).
 3. Consider an ABAWD to have met the 80 hours per month rule when the hours worked are at least 80 hours.
 4. ABAWDs are required to report changes by the 10th of the month following the month of change when the number of hours working fall below 20 hours per week regardless of simplified reporting requirements.
 5. Which individuals are potential ABAWDs in the future even if the individual is exempt at the time of application. An example of a potential ABAWD would be a FNS unit with one or more individuals that may be subject to ABAWD requirements during the new certification period.
 - i. For example, a FNS unit that contains a 17-year-old that will turn 18 during the certification period and the remaining adults meet none of the ABAWD exemptions in FNS 260.01;

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

6. The 36-month period fixed time clock;
 7. The ABAWD's 3 countable months;
 8. ABAWD exemptions;
 9. ABAWD non-countable months;
 10. Explain to the household that regardless of simplified reporting, the failure to report a change that effects their ABAWD status during the certification period (e.g., becoming exempt, starting work) will result in the termination of benefits for the ABAWD at the end of their 3 countable months.
 11. Verbally explain the Work Requirements Script for Eligibility Workers at the time of interview to ABAWDs. The case file must be documented that the work requirement script was verbally explained and date when explained.
 12. Verbally explain and provide the ABAWD with the [DSS-8569 Consolidated Work Notice](#). The case file must be documented with the date the notice was verbally explained, how the notice was given, if by hand delivery or mailed
- B. Reapplication
1. At reapplication the worker must explore each previously countable ABAWD months to determine if the ABAWD met an exemption in one of the previous months.
 2. Ask whether the applicant has completed the ABAWD work requirements within 30 consecutive days or more at any time since losing FNS eligibility, even if the applicant is not currently meeting the ABAWD work requirements.
 3. Recode any previous months as exempt or non-exempt, as applicable.
 4. Explain all ABAWD requirements to the household;
 5. Which individuals are currently subject to the ABAWD requirements;
 6. Working an average of 20 hours per week (80 hours in the month). Consider an ABAWD to have met the 80 hours per month rule when the hours worked are at least 80 hours.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

7. ABAWDs are required to report changes by the 10th of the month following the month of change when the number of hours working fall below 20 hours per week regardless of simplified reporting requirements.
 8. Which individuals are potential ABAWDs even if the individual is exempt at the time of application;
 9. The 36-month period fixed time clock;
 10. The ABAWD's 3 countable months;
 11. ABAWD exemptions;
 12. ABAWD non-countable months; and
 13. Explain to the household that that regardless of simplified reporting, the failure to report a change that effects their ABAWD status during the certification period (e.g., becoming exempt, starting work) while the clock is running will result in the termination of benefits for the ABAWD at the end of their 3 countable months.
 14. Verbally explain the Work Requirements Script for Eligibility Workers at the time of interview to ABAWADs. The case file must be documented that the work requirement script was verbally explained and date when explained.
 15. Verbally explain and provide the ABAWD with the [DSS-8569 Consolidated Work Notice](#). The case file must be documented with the date the notice was verbally explained, how the notice was given, if by hand delivery or mailed.
- C. Special situations
1. Pend a reapplication when an ABAWD has received FNS for the 3-month limit at the time of reapplication if the ABAWD claims physical or mental unfit for employment or another exemption.
 - a. Hold reapplication pending until the ABAWD or a collateral contact provides verification of the exemption, if needed.
 - b. If verification of the exemption is received within 30 days, approve the reapplication back to the original date of application even if the onset of the exemption is after the date of application but during the same calendar month.
 - c. The ABAWD is not eligible for emergency service unless the verification (if needed) is provided on the date of application.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

2. Pend a reapplication when an ABAWD has received FNS for the 3-month limit at the time of a reapplication and has not yet become exempt or compliant but has the potential to earn 80 hours within the 30-day processing period.
 - a. If the ABAWD earns 80 hours within the processing time frame, and all other eligibility requirements are met, approve the reapplication from the original date of application.
 - b. If the ABAWD does not earn 80 hours within the 30-day processing period, deny the application.
- D. Recertification:
 1. At recertification the worker must explore each previously countable ABAWD month during the prior certification period to determine whether the ABAWD met an exemption or complied with the work requirement in that month.
 2. Re-evaluate exemptions for chronic homeless and alcohol / drug addiction to determine ongoing eligibility for exemption;
 3. Recode any months as exempt or non-exempt, as applicable;
 4. Recode any month in the prior certification period as exempt or in compliance, as applicable; and
 5. Consider bonus month eligibility if the applicant completed the ABAWD work requirements for 30 consecutive days at any time since losing FNS eligibility, even if the applicant is not currently meeting or exempt from the ABAWD work requirements.
 6. Explain all ABAWD requirements to the household,
 7. Which individuals must meet ABAWD requirements.
 8. Working an average of 20 hours per week (80 hours in the month). Consider an ABAWD to have met the 80 hours per month rule when the hours worked are at least 80 hours.
 9. ABAWDs are required to report changes by the 10th of the month following the month of change when the number of hours working fall below 20 hours per week regardless of simplified reporting requirements.
 10. Which individuals are potential ABAWDs even if the individual is exempt at the time of application;
 11. The 36-month period fixed time clock;

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

12. The ABAWD's 3 countable months;
 13. ABAWD exemptions;
 14. ABAWD non-countable months; and
 15. Explain to the household that regardless of simplified reporting, the failure to report a change in ABAWD status during the certification period (e.g., becoming exempt, starting work) while the clock is running will result in the termination of benefits for the ABAWD.
 16. Verbally explain the Work Requirements Script for Eligibility Workers at the time of interview to the ABAWD. The case file must be documented that the work requirement script was verbally explained and date when explained.
 17. Verbally explain and provide the ABAWD with the [DSS-8569 Consolidated Work Notice](#). The case file must be documented with the date the notice was verbally explained, how the notice was given, if by hand delivery or mailed.
- E. Changes during certification period: When a change affecting ABAWD eligibility is reported or discovered during the certification period the worker must:
1. Explore any previous countable ABAWD months during the certification period to determine if the ABAWD met an exemption or met the work requirement in one of the previous months.
 2. Ask whether the applicant has completed the ABAWD work requirements within 30 consecutive days or more at any time since losing FNS eligibility, even if the applicant is not currently meeting the ABAWD work requirements.
 3. Recode any previous months as exempt or non-exempt, as applicable.

260.06 NC FAST TRACKING ABAWD ELIGIBILITY

NC FAST will track ABAWD eligibility for all ABAWDS within a FNS unit. NC FAST will also send all appropriate notices to the FNS households to terminate or reduce benefits when an individual has reached their 3-month time limit.

- A. NC FAST decisions are based on the available evidence. The worker must update all applicable evidence for each potentially countable month to ensure NC FAST has accurate information.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

- B. The system tracks the following information for each ABAWD member:
1. The 36-month period;
 2. Non-compliant (free) months, 3-month limit (countable months);
 3. Bonus months (3 additional months);
 4. Months in which the ABAWD complies with the work requirements (compliant months);
 5. Months in which the ABAWD fails to comply with the work requirements (non-compliant months);
 6. Months county operates under a waiver;
 7. Exemption status;
 8. Good cause;
 9. Individuals age 18 - 50 years of age effective September 1, 2023;
 10. Individuals age 18 - 52 years of age effective October 1, 2023;
 11. Individuals age 18 - 54 years of age effective October 1, 2024;
 12. ABAWDs that move from another county or state.
 13. **Note:** Document in NC FAST when the FNS unit member's ABAWD status changes when a change in situation occurs. If the ABAWD temporarily fails to meet the work requirement (with good cause), do not count as a non-compliant month.

260.07 ABAWD E&T SERVICES PROGRAM

The Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) E&T Services Program is an optional program that counties may participate in to help ABAWDs become employable and maintain eligibility for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits beyond the three-month limit described in FNS 260 Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD).

Local county departments of social services are not required to participate in this program; however, the Division strongly encourages each county to implement services for ABAWDs. Counties that wish to implement the ABAWD Services Program must contact the Food and Nutrition Services E&T Coordinator in the Economic Services at (919) 527-6300 prior to implementing the program.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

260.08 COMPONENT ACTIVITIES FOR ABAWDS

The following activities are optional for each county. It is not required that counties carry out the activities either as a function of the department of social services or under contract. The local department of social services has the authority to contract with local providers to carry out these activities.

- A. An ABAWD is placed in and actively participates in a program under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) for a minimum of 20 hours each week.
- B. An ABAWD is placed and actively participates in a community college program or programs (i.e., Pathways to Employment, HRD, GED, ABE, AHS) for a minimum of 20 hours each week.
- C. An ABAWD is placed and actively participates in community work experience (work site) for the required number of hours a month. Determine the number of hours that are required monthly by dividing the FNS benefit amount by the current federal minimum wage.
 - 1. **EXAMPLE:** A FNS benefit of \$123 divided by \$7.25 = 17 hours a month work site obligation.
 - a. If the ABAWD is a member of a household where others are receiving FNS benefits, divide the entire household FNS benefit amount by hourly minimum wage.
 - 2. **EXAMPLE:** An ABAWD is in a FNS unit with two non-ABAWDS. The household benefit is \$321. Divide \$321 by minimum wage to determine the number of hours the ABAWD must work. The \$321 benefit divided by \$7.25 equals 44 hours.
 - a. In a household with more than one ABAWD member or a household with more than one ABAWD member and non-ABAWD members, the county may determine how the required hours are distributed among each ABAWD.
 - b. Regardless of the total household obligation for community work experience work hours, an ABAWD cannot be required to work over 120 hours per month.
 - c. **NOTE:** When performing calculations, round down to the nearest whole number. ABAWDS must not work beyond the number of required hours unless it is voluntary and strictly for training.
- D. Self-initiated Community Work Experience (work sites)

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CERTIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FNS 260 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

1. If an ABAWD reports that he is working as a volunteer at a public or private non-profit agency, the work may qualify as a self-initiated community work experience work site. In order for the work site to qualify as an E&T work site, the ABAWD must work the required number of hours as described in C. above, and the agency must be under a work site agreement with the local department of social services.

260.09 ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- A. It is allowable to combine work and participation in the ABAWD Services Program for a portion of the month as long as there is an average of 20 hours of work and participation per week.
- B. The Food Stamp Act specifically excludes job search and job search training programs as qualifying work programs that will keep ABAWDS eligible for FNS benefits. However, the act does not preclude local departments of social services from requiring ABAWDS to conduct some job search activities while participating in the ABAWD Services Program. In any given month, education and training activities must account for the majority (minimum of 75% or 15 hours) of the time spent in the component.

Sources: [CFR 7 273.24 Time Limit for Able-Bodied Adults](#)

Main website link [Federal Regulations](#)