

SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) and Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) Work Program Fact Sheet

| Estimated SNAP E&T Participation | |
|--|---------|
| Number of Adults on SNAP | 276,007 |
| Number of individuals who meet Federal Exemption | 192,008 |
| Percent of work registrants that are exempt | 70% |
| Number of Mandatory Non-ABAWDs | 62,538 |
| Number of Mandatory ABAWDs | 21,461 |

Background:

New Mexico is proposing to re-implement the work requirements for certain groups of SNAP recipients due to the expiration of a waiver that was put in place in 2009 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Human Services Department (HSD) is preparing to re-implement the work requirements for adults without children in October 2015. In addition, beginning in March 2016, those recipients who have children under 6 years old will also be required to complete activity requirements.

The rules are bipartisan in nature and based upon President Bill Clinton signing the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), which reformed the nation's welfare system. Many exemptions exist under the reimplementation of these rules, however all recipients who are not specifically exempted by law are subject to the work requirement as a condition of eligibility for SNAP. Healthy childless adults* must meet additional requirements in order to continue receiving SNAP benefits beyond the 3-month time limit. They must meet all of the general SNAP work requirements (like registering for work and not voluntarily quitting a job) as well as the additional requirements listed below. HSD will provide assistance through SL Start in order to help all recipients become more self-sufficient and meet the work requirements.

Exemptions:

The chart below outlines the exemptions for the program.

| SNAP E&T Exemptions | ABAWD Exemptions |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the age of 16 or over the age of 60; • Physically or mentally disabled; • Complying with the work requirements of another program; • Responsible for a child under the age of six; • Already working more than 30 hours a week; • Participating in a drug or alcoholic rehab program • Students enrolled at least half time • Pregnant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt from general SNAP work requirements; • Under 18 or age 50 or over; • Living in a SNAP household with a child under 18; • Physically or mentally unfit for employment; • Pregnant |

If a recipient is a minor and enrolled in school at least part-time, they will receive an exemption. Other exemptions will be taken by case workers on a case-by-case basis.

*Healthy childless adults under federal rule is referred to as Able Bodied Adults without Dependents.

Requirements:

The chart below lists the requirements for each group for re-implementation of the rules.

| E&T Work Requirements | ABAWD Work Requirements |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register for work; • Participate in an allowable E&T work activity to the extent required (up to 120 hours); • Accept suitable employment if offered; and • Do not voluntarily quit a job of 30 or more hours a week or reduce work effort to less than 30 hours per week. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register for work; • Participate in an allowable ABAWD work activity for a minimum of 20 hours per week; averaged monthly; • Accept suitable employment if offered; and • Do not voluntarily quit a job of 30 or more hours per week or reduce work effort to less than 30 hours per week. |

Allowable Work Activities:

The chart below outlines the allowable work activities for each group under the re-implementation of the rules.

| E&T Allowable Work Activities | ABAWD Allowable Work Activities |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipients must complete the following in order to continue receiving SNAP benefits. • Individual or Group Job Search and Employer Contacts: This is a 2 part activity that requires the completion of an individual or group job readiness class and the completion of 24 employer contacts over a 2 month period. • Community Service: The purpose of this activity is to provide opportunities for on-the-job skills training and work-like experience. Participants needing additional experience in areas related to their occupational interest may participate in the Community Service component. • Work Experience: The purpose of this activity is to provide opportunities for on-the-job skills training and work experience. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipients must complete the following in order to continue receiving SNAP benefits. • Community Service: The purpose of this activity is to provide opportunities for on-the-job skills training and work-like experience. Participants needing additional experience in areas related to their occupational interest may participate in the Community Service component. • Work Experience: The purpose of this activity is to provide opportunities for on-the-job skills training and work experience. |