



**Presentation to the Indian Affairs Committee  
Brent Earnest, Deputy Secretary, HSD  
September 29, 2014**



# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

## What is SNAP?

- ▶ SNAP provides assistance for the purchase of food to eligible, low-income residents of New Mexico.
- ▶ Households with a gross income of less than 165% of FPL\* are eligible
  - \$1,605/month for individuals
  - \$3,280/month for a family of four
- ▶ The maximum monthly allotment\* is
  - \$194 for an individual
  - \$649 for a family of four
- ▶ During SFY14, NM received more than \$636 million from the federal government for SNAP
- ▶ 454,997 people are on SNAP in NM
  - 249,711 adults
  - 205,286 children
- ▶ Monthly Statistical Report posted at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/monthly-statistical-reports.aspx>

\*Effective October 1, 2014





# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

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## History of SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) and Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) work requirements

- ▶ New work requirements were signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1996 under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA)
- ▶ These requirements were in effect in New Mexico from 1997 until 2009, when they were suspended with the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- ▶ Beginning October 2013, New Mexico re-implemented mandatory E&T requirements for childless adults
- ▶ Beginning October 2014, re-implementation of E&T and ABAWD requirements will go into effect – removing the 2009 waiver



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## What is E&T and ABAWD?

- ▶ There are two broad categories of recipients under the SNAP rule:
  - Employment & Training (E&T)
  - Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)
- ▶ E&T: Recipients with kids
- ▶ ABAWD: Recipients without kids



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## Who do these SNAP rules effect?

SNAP Data	
Number of Individuals on SNAP	454,997
Number of Work Registrants (Adults on SNAP)	249,711
Percent of Work Registrants that are Exempt	65%
Number of Mandatory E&T Participants	60,430
Number of Mandatory ABAWDs	26,969



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## What are the allowable activities?

E&T Allowable Work Activities	ABAWD Allowable Work Activities
<p>Recipients must complete one of the following in order to continue receiving SNAP benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Individual or Group Job Search and Employer Contacts:</b> This is a two 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; or</li><li>• <b>Community Service:</b> 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; or</li><li>• <b>Job Training:</b> The purpose of this activity is to provide opportunities for on-the-job skills training and work experience.</li></ul>	<p>Recipients must complete one of the following in order to continue receiving SNAP benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Community Service:</b> 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; or</li><li>• <b>Job Training:</b> The purpose of this activity is to provide opportunities for on-the-job skills training and work experience; or</li><li>• <b>Completing Work:</b> This activity requires an individual to hold a job in which they work for 20 or more hours per week.</li></ul>



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## Who is exempt from these SNAP E&T and ABAWD requirements?

SNAP E&T Exemptions	ABAWD Exemptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Under the age of 16 or over the age of 59;</li><li>• Physically or mentally disabled;</li><li>• Complying with the work requirements of another program;</li><li>• Responsible for a child under the age of six;</li><li>• Already working more than 30 hours a week;</li><li>• Participating in a drug or alcoholic rehab program;</li><li>• Students enrolled at least half time;</li><li>• Pregnant;</li><li>• Residing in a county, tribe, pueblo or nation with than an unemployment rate greater than 10%.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exempt from general SNAP work requirements;</li><li>• Under 18 or age 50 or over;</li><li>• Living in a household with a child under 18;</li><li>• Physically or mentally disabled;</li><li>• Unfit for employment;</li><li>• Pregnant;</li><li>• Residing in a county, tribe, pueblo or nation with an unemployment rate that is 20% greater than the national average.</li></ul>
<p><i>Individuals who are unemployed and receiving unemployment insurance are exempt from the E&amp;T requirement.</i></p>	<p><i>Individuals who meet an exemption for E&amp;T are also exempt from ABAWD.</i></p>



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## Who is exempt from these SNAP E&T and ABAWD requirements?

Residents in the following counties, tribes, pueblos, and nations will be exempt from the E&T requirement because the unemployment rate for the months of May 2014–July 2014 is greater than 10% (based on current data):

Luna County	Mora County	McKinley County
Acoma Pueblo	Jemez Pueblo	Laguna Pueblo
Mescalero Apache	Navajo Nation	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo
Picuris Pueblo	Sandia Pueblo	San Felipe Pueblo
San Ildefonso Pueblo	Santa Ana Pueblo	Santo Domingo Pueblo
Zia Pueblo		

Residents in the following counties, tribes, pueblos, and nations will be waived from the ABAWD requirement because the unemployment rate is 20% higher than the two-year national average (based on current data). Residents of tribes, pueblos and nations that are not listed below will be exempt from the ABAWD requirements until Phase 3 (August 2015).

Guadalupe County	Luna County	McKinley County
Mora County	Taos County	Acoma Pueblo
Pueblo de Cochiti	Jemez Pueblo	Jicarilla Apache
Laguna Pueblo	Mescalero Pueblo	Navajo Nation
Nambe Pueblo	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	Picuris Pueblo
Sandia Pueblo	San Felipe Pueblo	San Ildefonso
Santa Ana Pueblo	Santo Domingo	Taos Pueblo
Zia Pueblo		



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## Is other assistance available for recipients?

Employment & Training reimbursements for monthly supportive services vary depending upon the component:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Dependent Care</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
Individual Job Search	\$40	\$25 (up to 2 months)
Job Training	\$200	\$25
Community Service	\$200	\$25

ABAWD reimbursement for monthly supportive services:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
Job Training	\$50
Community Service	\$50



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## How will this rule be implemented?

Phase 1 November 1, 2014	Phase 2 March 2, 2015	Phase 3 August 1, 2015	
		<u>Counties</u>	<u>Pueblos, Tribes, Nations</u>
Bernalillo County Los Alamos County Rio Arriba County Sandoval County Santa Fe County Valencia County	Catron County Cibola County Dona Ana County Grant County Harding County Hidalgo County Lincoln County Otero County San Juan County Sierra County Socorro County	Chavez County Colfax County Curry County De Baca County Eddy County Lea County Quay County Roosevelt County San Miguel County Torrance County Union County	Isleta Pueblo Pojoaque Pueblo Santa Clara Pueblo Zuni Pueblo

NOTE: Residents of tribes, pueblos, and nations that were not exempted from the ABAWD requirements won't be included until phase 3 (August 2015).



# Key Points

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- ▶ This rule removes a temporary waiver.
  - It will be phased in and includes numerous exemptions for high unemployment areas
- ▶ These changes provide additional assistance to individuals to help them build skills and find work.
- ▶ Only those who are physically able to meet the requirements must participate.
- ▶ These requirements work in conjunction with other assistance programs.



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# Questions?