



Association of Arizona Food Banks

2100 N. Central Avenue, Suite 230 | Phoenix, AZ 85004-1400
602.528.3434 | 800.445.1914 | Fax 602.528.3838
www.azfoodbanks.org

Frequently Asked Questions Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) Policy Change January 2016

SNAP (food stamp) time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) go back into effect January 1, 2016 in Maricopa County. Individuals considered “ABAWD” may only receive SNAP benefits for 3 full months within a 36 month period unless the person meets an “exemption” or meets work requirements.

To better understand this policy change, please review the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Issue Brief. Below are Frequently Asked Questions that clients and community providers may have:

How will I know if this change affects me?

In early December, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) sent notices to likely households informing them about the change. It only affects adults:

- Between the ages of 18-49 who do not live in the same place with a child
- Who are not receiving federal or state disability payments
- Residing in Maricopa County (Pima and Yavapai will be impacted later this year)

When will this change happen?

The change happens on January 1, 2016. If the person is not working at least 20 hours per week (or an average of 80 hours per month) or participating in a training program, SNAP eligibility is limited to 3 months in the next 36 months.

If I don't think this applies to me, who do I call?

Many people are exempt from this change, including people who:

- Have a disability or care for an individual with a disability;
- Are in a drug or alcohol treatment program;
- Are chronically homeless;
- Are pregnant women;
- Are at least a part-time student;
- Are employed for more than 20 hours a week; or
- Receive unemployment insurance.

For all of these, DES will need proof. If you think you may be exempt, call (855) 432-7587 Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm.

What qualifies as a disability? What documentation do I need?

People who are physically or mentally unable to work may qualify for an exemption. This could include individuals who are receiving SSI, SSDI, VA disability benefits, or Worker's

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Compensation. It could also include an obvious disability observed and documented by DES staff.

If you believe you have a disability that prevents you from meeting work requirements, get a statement about the extent and length of disability from your health care or mental health care provider.

How do I find the SNA Employment and Training (E and T) program?

DES handles the SNA E and T program and there are two offices in Maricopa County.

- Glendale: (623) 842-6281
- Mesa: (602) 771-6596

What other employment or training programs are available?

DES contracts with two providers in Maricopa County to assist with employment and training for people receiving SNAP. Father Matters and UMOM have resources to assist you in getting a job or training for a job. Also there are WIOA One-Stop Centers who can assist with employment related and training services in one location. Those locations in Maricopa County include:

- East Valley Career Center
735 N. Gilbert Rd, Suite 134
Gilbert, Arizona 85234
(602) 372-9700
- West Valley Career Center
1840 N. 95th Ave, Suite 160
Phoenix, Arizona 85037
(602) 372-4200
- Phoenix Workforce Connection-
North
9801 N. 7th St
Phoenix, Arizona 85020
(602) 861-0208
- Phoenix Workforce Connection-West
3406 N. 15th Ave
Phoenix, Arizona 85031
(623) 245-6200

Employment services provides placement services for job seekers and labor force recruitment services for employers. In addition to the One-Stop Centers above, there are three additional offices in Maricopa County.

- East Valley Mesa Office
120 W. 1st Ave
Mesa, Arizona 85210
(602) 771-6900
- Central Phoenix Office
4635 S. Central Ave
Phoenix, Arizona 85040
(602) 771-0630
- West Phoenix Office
3406 N. 51st Ave
Phoenix, Arizona 85031
(623) 245-6200

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Is there help with transportation?

Yes. The SNA E and T transportation allowance is limited to \$40 for each four week period. Other resources may be available, too. Talk about transportation problems with DES if a temporary transportation issue prevents you from working.

What if I can't find a job?

Contact the SNA Employment and Training Program. They will assess your job skills and help with resources in your community. They will help you to plan goals, meet work requirements, and get community supportive services.

What if I currently have a job but I can't get enough hours?

Talk to your employer and see if you can work more hours. There are also other unpaid work experiences and job training programs that can help you supplement your current job. Again, the SNA E and T may have other employment options that can help.

What are other options for emergency food?

To find a food provider in your community, please visit www.azfoodbanks.org. or call (602) 528-3434. The food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens in AAFB's directory may be able to help with food that usually lasts for 2-3 days. These groups have limited resources and limited hours, so call first. They often require photo ID and proof of address, like a utility bill.

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