

**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
September 5, 2017**

IM 5308

TO: County Social Service Directors
Economic Assistance Policy Regional Representatives
Economic Assistance Policy Quality Control Reviewers

FROM: Carol Cartledge, Director, Economic Assistance Policy

SUBJECT: Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver

PROGRAMS: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

EFFECTIVE: October 1, 2017

RETENTION: September 30, 2018

**SECTIONS
AFFECTED:** 430-05-40-50-10 Waivers

Effective October 1, 2017, a waiver to continue to exempt Benson, Eddy, Emmons, Kidder, Pierce, Rolette, and Sheridan Counties from the able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) provisions has been approved. In addition to these counties, Bottineau and Wells Counties are also exempt. The new waiver expires September 30, 2018.

TECS will default the code on ABRE to "EX" for all individuals living in Benson, Bottineau, Eddy, Emmons, Kidder, Pierce, Rolette, Sheridan and Wells Counties. An informational edit will appear on the ABRE screen "County exempt from ABAWDS requirement" and it will not allow the entry of any coding on this screen.

Individuals initially applying in Benson, Bottineau, Eddy, Emmons, Kidder, Pierce, Rolette, Sheridan and Wells Counties on October 1, 2017 or later are exempt from the ABAWD provisions.

Effective October 1, 2017, Foster, McLean, Mercer, and Oliver Counties will remain exempt from the ABAWD provisions using the State's 15% exemption criteria allowed by federal regulation. The number of 15% exemption criteria the state is allowed to use is calculated and provided by

the national office. Exemptions not used are carried over to the next year. For new applications and reviews received on or after October 1, 2017, in Foster, McLean, Mercer, and Oliver Counties the "SP" code must be used, if they are not otherwise exempt.

A report will be provided to Bottineau County the beginning of October 2017, identifying ABAWDs with a participation code of "DI" or that include an individual with "NE" or "EE" on ABRE.

When processing ongoing cases for the benefit month of November 2017, workers in Bottineau County must go through the ABRE screen in TECS and change any individuals with "NE" or "EE" to "EX". Any individual with a "DI" participation code as a result of exhausting all ABAWD months must be changed to "IN" if they are eligible to receive SNAP benefits.

A report will also be provided to Wells County to identify which clients currently have the "SP" exemption on ABRE.

When processing ongoing cases for the benefit month of November 2017, workers in Wells County must go through the ABRE screen in TECS to identify all ABAWDs and remove the "SP" code.

It is very important to use the "SP" code for only those individuals who are not exempt for another reason such as pregnant (PG) or working 20 hours per week (HR) as we are required to report the total number of "SP" exemptions used on a quarterly basis.

Exemption Reasons and Codes in TECS:

EX - EXEMPT FROM WORK REQUIREMENT

HR - WORKING AN AVERAGE OF 20 HOURS OR MORE PER WEEK

JT - PARTICIPATION IN A JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT PROGRAM

NA - NOT APPLICABLE

PG - PREGNANT

SP - STATE 15 PERCENT WAIVER

TA - PARTICIPATING IN A TRADE ACT PROGRAM

If you have questions, please contact your Regional Representative.