

**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
February 25, 2020**

IM 5383

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

FROM: Michele Gee, Director, Economic Assistance

SUBJECT: Abled-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS)

PROGRAMS: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

EFFECTIVE: April 1, 2020

SECTIONS

AFFECTED: **430-05-40-50 Abled-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)**
430-05-40-50-05 ABAWD Exemptions from Work Requirements
430-05-40-50-07 Loss of Exempt Status
430-05-40-50-10 Waivers
430-05-40-50-20 Three ABAWD Months
430-05-40-50-23 Regaining and Maintaining Eligibility
430-05-40-50-27 Extended Three Month Benefit Period

Due to findings in a recent federal E&T/ABAWD management review, ABAWD policies have been updated to apply correct federal regulation. Changes include a benefit month with a recoupment cannot be considered a countable month as well as when to add and remove countable months. Change Requests have been created to update SPACES accordingly. SNAP Policy will receive weekly reports to monitor the applicable cases until such time as SPACES is updated. Any changes needed based on the weekly report will be made by SNAP policy and notification will be sent to the county worker of such changes.

ABAWD policy is also being updated due to recent changes to the federal

regulation on criteria for waiving ABAWD requirements in a specific county. This change has resulted in a reduction in the number of counties that can be included in the waiver beginning April 1, 2020. A waiver has been submitted to FNS to continue to waive ABAWD requirements in Rolette County. The counties that will no longer be able to waive ABAWD requirements include Benson, Bottineau, Eddy, Emmons, Kidder, McHenry, Nelson, Pierce, Sheridan, Sioux and Wells.

Federal regulations have also changed the 15% exemptions to 12% and will no longer allow unused 12% exemptions to be carried over each federal fiscal year. Currently these exemptions are known as SP exemptions. Counties currently using the SP exemptions are Foster, McLean, Mercer and Oliver. These counties will continue to use the SP exemption. In addition, we will allow the SP exemption to be used for Benson, Bottineau, Eddy, Emmons, Kidder, McHenry, Nelson, Pierce, Sheridan, Sioux and Wells Counties.

When processing ongoing cases in TECS for the benefit month of April 2020, workers must go through the ABRE screen in TECS and code these individuals as SP if they are not otherwise exempt for another reason.

A data fix will be run in SPACES to update all ongoing cases in the affected counties.

These policies have been updated to remove reference of the TECS system as well as step by step processing instructions.

Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) 430-05-40-50

An ABAWD is an individual between the ages of 18 and 50 who is able to work and has no children under 18 years of age in their SNAP household. An individual is not considered an ABAWD until the month following their 18th birthday and is no longer considered an ABAWD the month they turn age 50. ~~(TECS automatically codes all individuals under 18 or 50 and older with a code of NA on the ABRE screen.)~~

ABAWDS who are not exempt from the ABAWD provisions are only entitled to three months of benefits (consecutive or otherwise) during a 36 month period.

A household containing an individual who is not exempt from the ABAWD provisions must be assigned a 6-month review period, however, the individual is only eligible for a maximum of three ABAWD months or the extended three month benefit period. These households cannot be authorized through.

Prorated, or zero benefit months or months where a recoupment occurs resulting in the household not receiving a full benefit amount, will not count as an ABAWD month.

Exception:

~~If a household receives a full month's benefit that after recoupment results in a zero benefit, the month counts as an ABAWD month.~~

When an ABAWD received NE or EE months in error and total overpayments are established, the months will continue to count as NE or EE months until the claim is paid in full. Once the claim is paid in full, the months must be manually changed. removed as countable months.

Example:

Single individual applies for SNAP on March 15 and is not exempt from the ABAWD requirements. Application is approved for March as a prorated month and April, May and June as NE months. Case is close the end of June for failure to comply with ABAWD requirements.

In December, the worker discovers the household was employed at the time of application working 40 hours a week with income resulting in total overpayments. April, May and June must be removed as countable months continue to count as ABAWD months until the claim is paid in full. Once the claim is paid, the worker would change the months from NE to EX as this individual would have been exempt from the work requirements.

ABAWD Exemptions from Work Requirements 430-05-40-50-05

An ABAWD is an individual between the ages of 18 and 50 who is able to work and has no children less than 18 years of age in their SNAP

household. An individual is not considered an ABAWD until the month following their 18th birthday and is no longer considered an ABAWD the month they turn age 50.

An ABAWD who meets one of the following is exempt from the ABAWD provisions and not subject to limited benefits. ~~Exemption criteria is determined prospectively, (TECS codes on the ABRE screen are listed.)~~

Verification of work hours is mandatory for items 5, 6 and 7.

1. Exempt from the SNAP work requirements. (EX)

ABAWDS exempt from ABAWD provisions based on the SNAP work requirement exemption for working 30 hours or more per week are also coded as exempt (EX).

2. All adult household members are exempt any time there is a child under the age of 18 in the same SNAP household. (EX)

Example:

A five-person SNAP household consists of mom, dad, child under the age of 18, an aunt to the child, and an unrelated adult. All four adults are exempt.

3. State 152% exemption criteria. (SP)
4. A pregnant woman. Client statement is acceptable. (PG)
5. Working at least 20 hours per week averaged monthly (regardless of the hourly wage) but less than 30 hours or more per week. This includes volunteer and in-kind work where an individual is not paid. (HR)

Volunteer work is when arrangements have been made with a school, hospital, public service agency, library, nursing home, church or other community organizations.

In-kind work is when an individual works in exchange for goods or services.

Example:

~~An individual managing an apartment building in exchange for free or reduced rent.~~

This **does not include** court ordered community services or work done for family members or friends when the individual is not paid.

Example:

An individual managing an apartment building in exchange for free or reduced rent.

6. Participating in {and complying with} a work program of 20 hours per week averaged monthly. Work program means:
- a. A program under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), this is administered by Job Services and can be verified by contacting that office. This includes the WIA administered by the Tribes as long as it meets the 20 hour or more per week averaged monthly requirement. {JT}
 - b. A program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974 (Trade Adjustment Assistance Act Program). This is administered by Job Services and can be verified by contacting that office. (TA)
 - c. An Employment and Training Program containing components other than job search or job search training.

~~NDWORKS meets this requirement. BEST does not meet this requirement as job search is the only component offered.~~

~~**NOTE: ABAWDS participating in BEST are not exempt from the ABAWD time limit rules based on participation in an Employment and Training Program as job search is the only program component offered.**~~

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~~**ABAWDS participating in NDWORKS are exempt from the ABAWD time limit rules because components other than job search are offered.**~~

NOTE:

ABAWDS participating in a SNAP Employment and Training program enrolled in the education/vocational training or job retention components may meet this requirement.

ABAWDS participating in a SNAP Employment and Training program may not meet the requirement if enrolled in only the job search training or job search components. However, the requirement may be met if they are enrolled in one of these components in addition to the above.

7. Any combination of paid, volunteer, in-kind work, or work programs that equals 20 hours per week averaged monthly.

An ABAWD exempt from the ABAWD provisions for working an average of 20 hours or more per week averaged monthly is required to report if their hours fall below 20 hours per week averaged monthly. This includes ABAWDS exempt from the SNAP work requirement for working 30 hours or more per week.

If an individual is exempt from the ABAWD provisions at initial application or review the individual remains exempt from the ABAWD provisions until the next review.

Exceptions:

- 1. Individuals exempt due to working 20 hours or more per week averaged monthly, who report their work hours have fallen below 20 hours.**
- 2. When the household reports a loss of an exemption for an individual determined to be exempt at application or review.**
- 3. An individual will lose exempt status during the review period and it is known to the agency.**

An individual exempt from the ABAWD provisions at initial application or review is required to work register if the following occurs:

1. The household reports they are no longer working 20 or more hours per week averaged monthly but less than 30 hours per week.
2. A loss of an exemption is reported, even if the household is not required to report.
3. It is known to the agency the exemption will end.

If an individual is not exempt from the ABAWD provisions at initial application or review and the individual reports an exemption while receiving benefits, the individual must be made exempt in the month in which the exemption occurred and the countable month removed.

Example:

Individual applies on March 1st and is a non-exempt ABAWD. March is a countable ABAWD month. April 10th the individual reports that they are pregnant and therefore exempt from ABAWD provisions. The exemption needs to be applied for the month of April and the countable month removed for April.

Loss of Exempt Status 430-05-40-50-07

When an individual is identified as an ABAWD and the individual's eligibility is based on working 20 hours or more per week averaged monthly, the household must report if the ABAWD's hours decrease below 20 hours weekly.

When an individual is exempt from the ABAWD provisions at initial application or review for working 20 hours or more per week averaged monthly, but less than 30 hours per week, the individual must be work registered.

If during the review period, the household reports the individual's work hours have fallen below 20 hours per week, because this is a mandatory reportable change, the F419— Request for Verification **Notice** —Simplified Reporting, must be sent to determine if the individual is exempt for another reason. If the household does not respond within 10-days or responds and reports the individual is not exempt for another reason, the ABAWD provisions apply, and the individual is coded NE or EE on the ABRE screen. If the individual has used all of their NE and EE months, they are ineligible and their participation code must be changed to DI on SSDO if there are remaining household members eligible for benefits.

When an individual is exempt from the ABAWD provisions at initial application or review for working 30 hours or more per week, the individual is also exempt from the work requirements.

If during the review period, the household reports the ABAWD's work hours have fallen below 20 hours per week, because this is a mandatory reportable change, the ~~F419— Request for Verification~~ [Notice —Simplified Reporting](#), must be sent to determine if the individual is exempt for another reason, along with the ~~SFN 385 or SFN 353~~ [Work Registration or Employment and Training Registration form](#). If the individual does not respond within 10-days or responds and is not exempt for another reason, the ABAWD provisions apply, ~~and the individual is coded NE or EE on the ABRE screen.~~ If the individual has used all of their NE and EE months, they are ineligible, ~~and their participation code must be changed to DI on SSDO if there are remaining household members eligible for benefits.~~

If the household responds and indicated the ABAWD is exempt from the ABAWD provisions, but not exempt from the work requirements and does not return the ~~SFN 385 or SFN 353~~ [Work Registration or Employment and Training Registration form](#), ~~their participation code must be changed to DW and a 10-day advance notice (F432 or F730) must be sent stating that the individual is ineligible and that ineligibility can be avoided by returning the form.~~

Exemptions known to the agency

When an individual is identified as exempt from the ABAWD work requirements at the time of application or review and it is known to the agency the exemption will end sometime during the review period, the household becomes subject to the ABAWD work requirements and time limit of benefits unless they are fulfilling the ABAWD work requirements or are otherwise exempt.

The county should advise the household at the time of application or review they will become subject to the ABAWD time limit, at which point during the review period each household member's eligibility for SNAP will be limited to three months if they are not fulfilling the ABAWD work requirements or are otherwise exempt. The county should also inform the household they should report if a household member starts fulfilling the ABAWD work requirement or a change that would exempt them from the time limits. It is the responsibility of the household to report the change.

Once the known exemption ends, the ~~F419— Request for Verification Notice~~—~~Simplified Reporting~~, must be sent to the household to determine if the individual is exempt for another reason, along with the ~~SFN 385— Affidavit for SNAP Work Requirements or SFN 353— Affidavit for SNAP BEST Registrants~~— Work Registration or Employment and Training Registration form, if required. If the household does not respond within 10-days or responds and is not exempt for another reason, the ABAWD provisions apply and the individual who is no longer exempt, ~~is coded NE or EE on the ABRE screen~~. If the individual has used all of their NE and EE months, they are ineligible, ~~and their participation code must be changed to DI on SSD0 if there are remaining household members eligible for benefits.~~

If the household responds and indicates they are exempt from the ABAWD provisions, but not exempt from the work requirements and does not return the ~~SFN 385 Affidavit for SNAP Work Requirements— or SFN 353— Affidavit for SNAP BEST Registrants~~Work Registration or Employment and Training Registration form, their participation code must be changed to DW and a 10-day advance notice for failure to comply (~~F432 Work Registration Non-Compliance or F730 Decrease in Benefits for Work Requirements~~) must be sent stating that the individual is ineligible and that ineligibility can be avoided by returning the form.

Example:

A household consisting of a mother age 40 and her son age 17 complete a review in April and remain eligible. During the review process the ~~SFN 385 Affidavit for SNAP Work Requirements~~ Registration is signed and the eligibility worker explains the ABAWD exemptions and when the exemption will end since the son will be turning 18 on June 2nd.

On June 3, the ~~F419—Request for Information —Simplified Reporting~~ is sent to the household to determine if another ABAWD exemption exists. The household does not respond. Both household members would become subject to the ABAWD time limit for July ~~and their code on the ABRE screen must be changed to NE for July.~~

In August, the mother reports she has started a job working 30 or more hours per week and provides verification of the new employment. The mothers ~~code on ABRE is changed to EX~~ is considered exempt and the income is acted on at the next review.

Households reporting loss of an exemption

When an individual is exempt from the ABAWD provisions at initial application or review and reports the loss of the exemption, the household becomes subject to the ABAWD work requirements and time limit of benefits unless they are fulfilling the ABAWD work requirements or are otherwise exempt.

If the household reports the loss of an ABAWD exemption, the F419—Request for Verification Notice—~~Simplified Reporting~~, must be sent to the household to determine if the individual is exempt for another reason, along with the ~~SFN 385—Affidavit for SNAP Work Requirements or SFN 353—Affidavit for SNAP BEST Registrants~~ Work Registration or Employment and Training Registration form, if required. If the household does not respond within 10-days or responds and is not exempt for another reason, the ABAWD provisions apply and the individual ~~who~~ is no longer exempt is ~~coded NE or EE on the ABRE screen~~. If the individual has used all of their NE and EE months, they are ineligible, ~~and their participation code must be changed to DI on SSDO if there are remaining household members eligible for benefits.~~

If the household responds and indicates they are exempt from the ABAWD provisions, but not exempt from the work requirements and does not return the ~~SFN 385 Affidavit for SNAP Work Requirements or SFN 353 Affidavit for SNAP BEST Registrants~~ Work Registration or Employment and Training Registration form, their participation code must be changed to DW and a 10-day advance notice (~~F432 Work Registration Non-Compliance or F730 Decrease in Benefits for Work Requirements~~) must be sent stating that the individual is ineligible and that ineligibility can be avoided by returning the form.

At any time during the review period the household reports a loss of exempt status and ABAWD provisions apply, the exemption must be removed for the month following the month the loss of exemption occurred and the ABAWD countable months must start with that month.

Examples:

1. Individual applies on March 1 and is exempt from the ABAWD provisions because they have a 5 year old child in the household. On April 10th the individual reports that the 5 year old child moved out of the household on April 10th. The exemption must be removed for the month of

May and the ABAWD countable months begin with the benefit month of May.

- 2. Individual applies on March 1 and is exempt from the ABAWD provisions because they have a 5 year old child in the household. A six month review is assigned and due July for August. Individual submits the review July 15th and reports that the 5 year old child moved out of the household March 20th. The exemption must be removed back to April and ABAWD countable months applied for April, May and June. Overpayments must not be established for July as this is not a mandatory reportable change.**

Waivers 430-05-40-50-10

The SNAP Unit may request the Secretary of Agriculture to waive the ABAWD work requirement for any group of individuals that reside in an area in that demonstrates an unemployment rate and a lack of sufficient jobs as set by USDA – Food and Nutrition Services. ~~which the unemployment rate is over ten percent or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.~~

Federal regulations also provide states with a calculated number of exemptions on a yearly basis. These exemptions are considered the state's 152% exemptions.

The able-bodied provisions do not apply to an individual living in waived or 152% exemption criteria counties and benefits received do not count toward the three ABAWD months.

~~TECS will default the code on ABRE for all individuals to 'EX' for a county where a waiver of the ABAWD provisions is currently in place. An informational edit will appear on the ABRE screen 'COUNTY EXEMPT FROM ABAWD REQUIREMENTS' and it will not allow entry of coding on the screen for any case in the exempt county. Individuals exempt under the 15% exemption criteria must be coded SP on the ABRE screen.~~

Three ABAWD Months 430-05-40-50-20

An individual who is not **ABAWD exempt** ~~ABAWD-exempt~~ is entitled to benefits for three months (consecutive or otherwise) during a 36 month period. The 36-month period starts with the receipt of the first ABAWD month.

~~The worker must enter the code of NE (not exempt) on the ABRE screen in TECS for each of the three ABAWD months received. The worker will receive an alert on the first working day of the third 'NE' month as a reminder to send an advance notice to close the case or change the ABAWD's participation code to DI on SSDO.~~

The worker is not required to determine if an individual received ABAWD months in another state **unless** the worker becomes aware of a potential benefit history in another state. A worker may become aware of potential benefit history through the application, interview, or when contacting another state. If so, the worker must verify the benefit history with the previous state to determine if the applicant is eligible in North Dakota.

ABAWD months received in another state are countable months in North Dakota **using** the rolling 36-month period. ~~These months cannot be entered into TECS and must be documented on the on-line narrative.~~

If during the three ABAWD months an individual becomes exempt, the change must be made for the next benefit month **that the exemption began in** ~~as exemption criteria is determined prospectively.~~

Examples:

- 1. An individual applies and is not exempt from the ABAWD work requirements on November 1st. The individual is approved and certified through April. On January 5 the individual reports and verifies employment of 20 hours per week that started on December 20. The individual received their first paycheck on January 3. November, **and** December**

~~and January~~ are counted as an ABAWD months. The individual is exempt for ~~February~~ starting in January and the worker must remove the ABAWD month.

2. In an ongoing case an individual reports and verifies work of 20 hours per week averaged monthly. When wage verifications are received it is learned that the individual did not work 20 hours per week averaged (due to illness, weather, not scheduled to work 20 hours for one week, etc.). If the individual is regularly scheduled to work an average of 20 hours per week, the individual is considered working an average of 20 hours per week and the month is an exempt ABAWD month.
3. An individual applies and is exempt from the ABAWD work requirements on November 1st as the individual is working 20 hours per week. The individual is approved and certified through April. On December 5 the individual reports and verifies November earnings. The number of hours worked is less than 20 hours per week averaged. If the individual is regularly scheduled to work an average of 20 hours per week, the individual is considered working an average of 20 hours per week and the month is an exempt ABAWD month.

~~Non-mandatory reportable changes do not affect ABAWD count months.~~

Example:

~~An individual is exempt from work requirements as physically unable to work. At the time of review, a doctor's statement is obtained as the incapacity is no longer evident to the worker. The doctor's statement indicates that the individual is not able to work for an additional six months. Since this individual is exempt at review, the individual remains exempt until the next review. A six month review period is assigned to the case, July through December.~~

~~At review in December, the individual reports they were medically able to return to work in October but have not found employment. Since this is not a mandatory reportable change, months November and December do not count as ABAWD months and the worker would determine continuing eligibility.~~

Regaining and Maintaining Eligibility 430-05-40-50-23

Regaining eligibility applies to ABAWDS who:

- Received the three NE months; and
- Were closed or denied for failure to comply with the ABAWD work requirements (including failure to file an application for review).

Regaining eligibility does not apply to an individual exempt from the ABAWD provisions for a reason other than working 20 hours or more per week averaged monthly.

There is no limit to the number of times an ABAWD may regain eligibility. ~~In order to regain eligibility, these individuals must verify they are meeting ALL of the following requirements.~~

In order to regain eligibility, these individuals must verify they are meeting one of the following requirements:

- Worked 80 hours or more in a 30 consecutive day period. This includes volunteer and in-kind work where an individual is not paid. (If an individual reapplies prior to the completion of working 80 hours in a 30-day period, benefits are prorated from the date the 80 hours are completed.)

A 30 day consecutive period is any 30 days since case closure or denial for failure to comply with ABAWD work requirements. (Including failure to file an application for review).

Volunteer work is when arrangements have been made with a school, hospital, public service agency, library, nursing home, church or other community organizations.

In-kind work is when an individual works in exchange for goods or services.

This does not include court ordered community services or work done for family members or friends when the individual is not paid.

Example:

An individual managing an apartment building in exchange for free or reduced rent.

- Participate in and comply with a work program of 80 hours or more per month averaged. A work program means:
 - A program under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), this is administered by Job Services and can be verified by contacting that office. This includes the WIA administered by the Tribes as long as it meets the 20 hour or more per week averaged monthly requirement.
 - A program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974 (Trade Adjustment Assistance Act Program).
 - An Employment and Training Program containing components other than job search or job search training.

NOTE:

ABAWDS participating in a SNAP Employment and Training program enrolled in the education/vocational training or job retention components may meet this requirement.

ABAWDS participating in a SNAP Employment and Training program may not meet the requirement if enrolled in only the job search training or job search components. However, the requirement may be met if they are enrolled in one of these components in addition to the above.

The BEST program would not meet this requirement as the only components offered are job search and job search training.

In addition, in order to maintain eligibility, these individuals must verify they are currently ~~Be~~ working at least 20 hours per week averaged monthly (regardless of the hourly wage). This includes volunteer and in-kind work where an individual is not paid.

~~Volunteer work is when arrangements have been made with a school, hospital, public service agency, library, nursing home, church or other community organizations.~~

~~In-kind work is when an individual works in exchange for goods or services.~~

~~Example:~~

~~An individual managing an apartment building in exchange for free or reduced rent.~~

~~This does not include court ordered community services or work done for family members or friends when the individual is not paid.~~

If working 20 hours or more per week but less than 30 hours, comply with work registration or ~~BEST~~ the employment and training program, if not otherwise exempt.

Examples:

1. A single individual who is not exempt from the ABAWD requirements applies on June 25 and is certified for six months. The case is closed for non-compliance with ABAWD requirements September 30 (third NE month as June was a prorated month).

On December 5, the individual reapplies. The individual verifies they worked 80 hours between November 1 and December 1 and also verifies they are currently working 40 hours per week. The individual is eligible and certified for six months.

On January 10, the individual reports they were laid off. Since they were not work registered at the time of application, after completing the work registration form, the individual receives their three EE months in January, February, and March and April. The case is closed the end of April-March as the individual is not exempt from the ABAWD requirements for another reason.

In order to regain eligibility, the individual:

- Must work 80 hours in a 30 consecutive day period, and
- Be exempt based on working 20 hours or more per week averaged monthly; unless
- They are exempt for another reason.

2. A single individual received their three NE and three EE months. The individual reapplies on August 5, verifies they worked 80 hours between July 1 and July 31 and that they are currently working 20 hours per week. The individual is work registered and certified for six months.

On September 15, the household reports they were fired. The individual is not exempt from the ABAWD requirements for another reason so the case is closed the end of September. Since the case closed for failure to comply with the ABAWD work requirements, in order to regain eligibility, the individual must:

- Work 80 hours in a 30 consecutive day period, and
- Be exempt based on working 20 hours or more per week averaged monthly; unless
- They are exempt for another reason.

Extended Three Month Benefit Period 430-05-40-50-27

Once an ABAWD has received the three ABAWD months and has had a ~~break in receipt of SNAP, including a participation code of 'DI'~~ extended benefits may be granted for three full consecutive months if:

1. If the individual regains eligibility and are no longer working 20 hours or more per week or;
2. If the individual reapplies, is not exempt and has not voluntarily quit a job without good cause within the 30 days prior to the date of initial

application, and the individual meets one of the following:

- Worked 80 hours or more in any 30 consecutive day period.

Work can include volunteer or in-kind work.

Volunteer work is when arrangements have been made with a school, hospital, public service agency, library, nursing home, church or other community organizations.

In-kind work is when an individual works in exchange for goods or services.

This does not include court ordered community services or work done for family members or friends when the individual is not paid.

Example:

An individual managing an apartment building in exchange for free or reduced rent.

~~This does not include court ordered community services or work done for family members or friends when the individual is not paid.~~

- Participated in and complied with the requirements of a work program for 80 hours or more in any 30 consecutive day period. Work program means:
 - a. A program under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), this is administered by Job Services and can be verified by contacting that office. This includes the WIA administered by the Tribes as long as it meets the 20 hour or more per week averaged monthly requirement. ~~(JT)~~
 - b. A program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974 (Trade Adjustment Assistance Act Program). This is administered by Job Services and can be verified by contacting that office. ~~(TA)~~
 - c. An Employment and Training Program containing components other than job search or job search training.

NOTE:

ABAWDS participating in a SNAP Employment and Training program enrolled in the education/vocational training or job retention components may meet this requirement.

ABAWDS participating in a SNAP Employment and Training program may not meet the requirement if enrolled in only the job search training or job search components. However, the requirement may be met if they are enrolled in one of these components in addition to the above.

The BEST program would not meet this requirement as the only components offered are job search and job search training.

~~The BEST Program does not meet the definition of either of these programs.~~

- Any combination of paid, volunteer, in-kind work, or work programs for 80 hours or more in any 30 day consecutive period.

A 30-day period means any 30 consecutive days since the individual was closed or denied for failure to comply with the ABAWD requirements or failed to file a review. It does not have to be a calendar month - it may be a combination of two months.

~~To receive the extended months, the worker must enter the code of EE (exemption extension) on the ABRE screen in TECS.~~

The extended three month benefit period can only be approved once in a 36-month period. The three months run consecutively. Once approved, the individual has received the extension regardless of whether they receive benefits for all three months. Case closings, disqualifications or zero benefits will not stop the three month count.

Examples:

- 1. An individual received the three ABAWD months in April, May and June and the case closed June 30 for failure to comply with the ABAWD work requirements. On August 16, the individual reapplies and verifies having worked 80 hours in a consecutive 30 days and lost the employment through no fault of their own. This individual is eligible for the extended three-month benefit period, September, October, and November. August does not count as one of the three months due to proration.**
- 2. An individual received the three ABAWD months in April, May and June and closed June 30 for failure to comply with the ABAWD work requirements. On August 16, the individual reapplies and verifies having worked 80 hours in 30 days and lost the employment through no fault of their own. This individual is eligible for the extended three-month benefit period, September, October, and November.**

On September 10 the individual reports new employment and income that exceeds the GIL, they expect the income to continue and their case closed September 30 for excess income. Even though the individual is no longer receiving benefits, the extended three month benefit period continues through the month of November. This individual would not be eligible for an additional extended ABAWD three-month benefit period during this individual's 36-month period.

- 3. A single individual who is not exempt from the ABAWD requirements applies and is certified for six months. The case is closed for non-compliance with ABAWD requirements at the end of the third NE month. The individual reapplies after starting a job working an average of 20 hours per week and**

regaining eligibility (meeting the 80 hours of work in a 30 day period). Sometime later during the review period, the individual is laid off by the employer. This individual can receive the three EE months before case closure.