

December 21, 2005

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Allocations of the 15 Percent Exemptions for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs)

TO: All Regional Directors
Food Stamp Program

Attached is a list of state-by-state 15 percent ABAWD exemptions for FY 2006. 7 CFR 273.24 authorizes the Food and Nutrition Service to adjust the number of 15 percent exemptions allocated to each State at the beginning of the fiscal year to reflect changes in the States' caseloads and our estimate of changes in the proportion of food stamp recipients covered by waivers.

We wish to remind you and your States about the following points regarding these exemptions:

- The FY 2006 list does not include any carryover amount from States' FY 2005 usage. We will send you the FY 2006 adjusted allocations as soon as state agencies report actual usage from the FNS-583 report.
- State agencies have broad discretion to use their exemptions as they see fit.
- States must not use more than their assigned allocation.
- States must closely monitor their use of case-month exemptions.
- The figures in attachment should be used for planning purposes only. We explain how States can calculate the number of case-month exemptions available to them in our memo "Guidance for States on Use of Discretionary Food Stamp Program Time Limit Exemptions", which is posted on our website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/rules/Memo/PRWORA/abawds/020998.htm>
- For Quality Control (QC) reviews, if a case file does not identify a case as containing ABAWD individuals exempt under the 15 percent criteria, the case shall be reviewed using established QC review procedures for the evaluation on the time limited participation of ABAWD recipients. If the case file identifies a case as exempt under the 15 percent criteria, then the determination to exempt the case under the 15 percent criteria is not subject to examination by the QC reviewer.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Larry Tropp of my staff at 703-305-2504.

/s/

Arthur T. Foley
Director
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Attachment

