



MAY 27 2011

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: SNAP – Final Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Allocations of the 15 Percent Exemptions for Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) – Adjusted for Carryover

TO: All Regional Directors
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Background

The Food and Nutrition Act restricts the amount of time that able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) may participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to 3 months in a 36-month period, unless the ABAWD meets certain work requirements or is exempted by the State. SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(g) provide each State agency with an annual allocation of exemptions from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 for ABAWDs. This memorandum provides each SNAP State agency with the number of 15 percent (ABAWD) exemptions available to them for fiscal year (FY) 2011.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) suspended ABAWD time limits from April 1, 2009 until September 30, 2010. Under ARRA, unless a State agency chose to impose specific work requirements, State ABAWD time limits were lifted without the State needing to track ABAWDs, use exemptions, or request ABAWD waivers. States were allowed to carry over unused exemptions from prior years. In light of this suspension, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) did not make any additional 15 percent exemptions available to State agencies for FY 2010. Only the five “pledge” States, Colorado, Delaware, New York, South Dakota and Texas, earned new 15 percent exemptions for FY 2011.

Calculation

The attachment provides FNS’ exemption calculations for FY 2011. The calculated exemptions reflect both exemptions earned as well as exemptions used in FY 2008 and the first two quarters of FY 2009 (before ARRA implementation). State agencies who suspended ABAWD requirements did not have ABAWDs subject to the time limit during FY 2010 and did not earn new exemptions for FY 2011.

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Specifically FNS calculated the 2011 exemption amount as follows:

- We reviewed the final FY 2008 allocations of 15 percent exemptions as provided to States in our FY 2008 allocation memo dated February 27, 2008 and;
- We added any new 15 percent exemptions that a State earned for FY 2009 as calculated in our FY 2009 allocation memo dated September 29, 2008 and;
- FNS subtracted all 15 percent ABAWD exemptions reported as used by each State agency for FY 2008 and the first two quarters of FY 2009. Please note, that during the ARRA time limit suspension (after the second quarter of FY 2009 through FY 2010) , no State needed to use any 15 percent exemptions; and
- FNS added any 15 percent ABAWD exemptions earned by “pledge” States for FY 2011.

Please advise your State agencies of the total number of 15 percent exemptions that are available to them for FY 2011 as provided herein.

Should you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Patrick Lucrezio via email at Patrick.Lucrezio@fns.usda.gov.



Lizbeth Silberman

Director

Program Development Division

Attachment

ABAWD Exemptions for FY 2011			
State	Carry Over 15% Exemptions through end of FY 2010	New 15% Exemptions Earned for FY 2011	Total Number of 15 % Exemptions Available for FY 2011
Alabama	61,605	0	61,605
Alaska	9,466	0	9,466
Arizona	48,415	0	48,415
Arkansas	67,195	0	67,195
California	866,894	0	866,894
Colorado	6,656	4,596	11,252
Connecticut	5,839	0	5,839
Delaware	22,596	3,888	26,484
DC	0	0	0
Florida	-2,904	0	0**
Georgia	61,515	0	61,515
Guam	2,959	0	2,959
Hawaii	27,089	0	27,089
Idaho	28,052	0	28,052
Illinois	51,341	0	51,341
Indiana	109,106	0	109,106
Iowa	45,321	0	45,321
Kansas	14,178	0	14,178
Kentucky	57,760	0	57,760
Louisiana	13,811	0	13,811
Maine	-64,287	0	0*
Maryland	18,915	0	18,915
Massachusetts	15,441	0	15,441
Michigan	483,013	0	483,013
Minnesota	86,654	0	86,654
Mississippi	54,807	0	54,807
Missouri	-5,167	0	0*
Montana	22,944	0	22,944
Nebraska	19,253	0	19,253
Nevada	59,366	0	59,366
New Hampshire	861	0	861

New Jersey	76,390	0	76,390
New Mexico	-1,868	0	0**
New York	262,768	52,332	315,100
North Carolina	-34,879	0	0*
North Dakota	14,569	0	14,569
Ohio	405,286	0	405,286
Oklahoma	215,942	0	215,942
Oregon	60,688	0	60,688
Pennsylvania	105,388	0	105,388
Rhode Island	8,390	0	8,390
South Carolina	0	0	0
South Dakota	6,885	2,328	9,213
Tennessee	42,990	0	42,990
Texas	867,147	128,652	995,799
Utah	1,914	0	1,914
Vermont	34,266	0	34,266
Virginia	238,722	0	238,722
Virgin Islands	3,948	0	3,948
Washington	11,530	0	11,530
West Virginia	100,643	0	100,643
Wisconsin	55,676	0	55,676
Wyoming	20,140	0	20,140

*States which overused 15% exemptions prior to FY 2008 and agreed to not use any additional 15% exemptions for a period of 3 years after which their exemption deficit would be reset to zero.

**States that overuse their exemptions occurred after FY 2008. FNS will not bill these States provided no additional 15% exemptions are used until State eliminates overuse balance. Available exemption number is shown as zero.