

Provider Notification

SNAP Time Limit for ABAWDs What Providers Should Know

SNAP benefits (also known as food stamps or LINK) allow low-income people to buy the food they need to stay healthy. Beginning January 1, 2018, persons living in DuPage County who are classified as Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) will be limited to the length of time they can receive SNAP Benefits.

Who is an ABAWD?

An ABAWD is an adult between 18 and 49 years of age who is *not* disabled, pregnant, or living in a household with minor children.

ABAWDs are able to receive SNAP benefits for only 3 months in a 3 year period – unless the person meets an exemption or certain work rules. Some of the persons affected are persons you treat.

How can you help?

Your consumer can qualify for an exemption if they have a medical, living or treatment condition that reduces their ability to work full-time.

- The condition may be a **physical or mental** impairment or illness.
- The condition may be temporary (pregnancy, broken arm) or chronic.
- It also includes patients you treat who are:
 - Participating in drug or alcohol treatment (in-patient or out-patient)
 - Experiencing homelessness
 - Survivors of domestic violence

An optional form, *SNAP Work Requirement Request Medical/Service Provider Unfit to Work Determination (Form 2340)*, is used to help verify inability to work. You may complete the appropriate sections and sign the form as verification of the condition. You can even designate someone in your office or agency to complete and sign the form. The standard is much less strict than the Social Security disability standards and you are not required to release medical or treatment records.

What if the person is fit for work?

If your consumer is able to work a full-time job without any limitations, they will need to comply with the new work requirements in order to receive SNAP for more than three months. Qualifying work activities include:

- Working 80 hours per month (paid, unpaid or in-kind work)
- Participating in an eligible training program for at least 20 hours per week
- Do community service or workfare for 20 hours per week

A number of community agencies can assist patients who need help with seeking employment or community service hours. Refer to the Community Resource Referral fact sheet for a number of local resources.

