

# SNAP ABAWD Time Limit in Illinois

## Background on ABAWD Policy

The federal **Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit Rule** places a limit on how long certain individuals are eligible to receive SNAP benefits. SNAP recipients considered “ABAWDs” may only receive SNAP benefits for a total of three full months within the 3-year period that started on January 1, 2018 and will reset on December 31, 2020.<sup>1</sup>

### WHO'S AT RISK? <sup>1</sup>

SNAP Recipients who:

- are between the ages of 18 and 49
- are mentally and physically able to work
- do not have children under 18 in their SNAP household
- are working less than 80 hours a month

### WHAT COUNTIES ARE IMPACTED?

Starting on January 1, 2020 SNAP participants living in DuPage and Cook counties will be subject to the ABAWD time limit. All other counties will be exempt from the time limit.

### WORK REQUIREMENTS <sup>1</sup>

Individuals who do not meet any of the exemptions can remain eligible for SNAP benefits past three months if they participate in a qualifying work activity and document the number of hours worked each month with their Family Community Resource Center (FCRC).

Qualifying work activities include:

- Working at least 80 hours/month, including working for goods or services, or volunteering,
- Participating in an eligible work training program for at least 80 hours/month. Contact the customer's local FCRC.
- Any combination of the above for 80 hours/month, or
- Complying with a public non-profit to “work for benefits” referred to as EARN FARE in Illinois. More information is available at local FCRCs.

### WHO QUALIFIES FOR AN EXEMPTION? <sup>2</sup>

Time limits **do not** apply to individuals who meet any of the following:

- Under age 18 or 50 years or older,
- Working 80 hours or more per month, including self-employment or in-kind work,
- Receiving a disability-based benefit from a government or private source,\*
- Physically or mentally unable to work 20 hours a week,
- Participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program and unable to work 80 hours per month,
- Receiving/applied for unemployment benefits,
- Attending high school or a GED program, enrolled at least half-time,
- Attending training or college at least half-time and meeting the student eligibility criteria to receive SNAP,
- Living with a child under 18 who is part of the same SNAP household,
- Pregnant—at any stage of pregnancy,
- Caring for a person with a disability or a frail senior,\*\*
- Living in a waived city or county,

\*All individuals receiving SSDI or VA disability compensations, regardless of percentage, are exempt.

\*\*Incapacitated person does not need to live in the SNAP household.

### SOURCES

1. Illinois Department of Human Services Policy Manual (<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=98819>)

2. USDA's ABAWD Webpage (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ABAWD>)



Created by the Illinois Hunger Coalition  
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