



Important Changes to work requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Under the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, beginning **October 1, 2023**, individuals who are **18 through 52** years of age, without minor dependents, and physically and mentally fit for work are considered Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). *This is a change from the previous age range of 18 through 49.*

ABAWDs can only receive 3 months of SNAP benefits in a 3-year period ("time limit"), unless they meet the ABAWD work requirements OR qualify for an exemption. Individuals outside of Maricopa County are exempted through at least September 30th, 2024. Individuals identified as ABAWDs subject to the time limit should have started receiving an "ABAWD Time Limits Return Notice" from the Department of Economic Security (DES), such as below.

For a complete list of exemptions go to:

<https://des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/food-assistance/nutrition-assistance/work-requirements-able-bodied-adults>



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NOTICE: X635E

IMPORTANT: INFORMATION NEEDED FROM YOU
THIS NOTICE IS ABOUT YOUR NUTRITION ASSISTANCE (NA)

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On October 01, 2023 Arizona is starting the time limit rules for persons who are Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD). An ABAWD is NA participant who is age 18 or older and under age 53, not living with a child under 18, and physically and mentally able to work. Our records show that the person listed below is an ABAWD:

Effective **September 1, 2023**, there are three new exemptions available to ABAWDs: (1) Veterans, (2) Homeless, and (3) former foster youth between 18-24 years old.

Common Questions & Answers:

Q: What if the individual is sleeping on a friend's couch or in their car, is this considered homeless?

A: Yes. *Homeless individual means an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence. This can look like staying with another individual temporarily ("couch surfing") for 90 days or less, staying in a temporary shelter, or in a place not meant for sleeping like a car.*

Q: Can an individual qualify for the exemption if they leave foster care after turning 18 years but before reaching the maximum age of a State's extended foster care program?

A: Yes. *Those aged 18 to 24 years who are in foster care at the time they turn 18 fall under the exemption, regardless of whether the State operates an extended foster care program.*

Q: What defines a Veteran?

A: *An individual who served in the United States Armed Forces (such as Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard), including a reserve component of the Armed Forces.*

Q: What if the individual was dishonorably discharged from military service?

A: *The Veteran exemption applies regardless of discharge conditions.*

If you have case-specific questions, please contact DES at 1-855-432-7587. Other questions? Contact laney@azfoodbanks.org or 602-528-3434.

DES runs the SNAP CAN Program, which has opportunities available to help ABAWDs get jobs or learn skills needed for employment. To find a SNAP CAN provider go to: <https://des.az.gov/snapcan-training> OR call DES 1-855-432-7587.