



MEPD and TW Bulletin 21-18

Date: September 30, 2021

To: Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors
Regional Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2115

Subject: Counting ABAWD Federal Time Limit Months

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins) at <http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins>.

Counting ABAWD Federal Time Limit Months

Background

During the SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Management Evaluation (ME) Review for Fiscal Year 2021, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) clarified that able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) federal time limit (FTL) months must be counted retroactively when it is discovered the ABAWD became subject to the ABAWD time limit during the certification period.

Current Policy

SNAP

Count a benefit month as one of the ABAWD FTL months if the person:

- receives SNAP benefits in Texas or any other state that month;
- is not exempt from the work requirement that month; and
- fails to work an average of 20 hours per week that month.

Do not count SNAP benefit months toward the ABAWD FTL when:

- HHSC or the out-of-state agency:
 - disqualifies the person from SNAP for any reason;
 - prorates benefits; or
 - files an overpayment claim for the entire month's benefit;
- the benefits are issued as restored benefits;
- the person received an exemption from ABAWD work requirements and time limits in error; or
- the person correctly received an exemption from ABAWD work requirements and time limits, but the household situation changed and the ABAWD status was not updated. ([TWH A-1950](#), Counting Months Toward Time-Limited Eligibility)

New Policy

SNAP

Count a benefit month as one of the ABAWD FTL months if the person:

- receives SNAP benefits in Texas or any other state that month;
- is not exempt from the work requirement that month; and
- fails to work an average of 20 hours per week that month.

ABAWD FTL months must also be applied retroactively using the **ABAWD-Override** LUW in TIERS when:

- the benefits are issued as restored benefits;
- the person received an exemption from ABAWD work requirements and time limits in error; or
- the person correctly received an exemption from ABAWD work requirements and time limits, but the household situation changed and the ABAWD status was not updated.

Do not count SNAP benefit months toward the ABAWD FTL when HHSC or the out-of-state agency:

- disqualifies the person from SNAP for any reason;
- prorates benefits; or
- files an overpayment claim for the entire month's benefit.

Automation

Automation changes are not required.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the January 2022 revision.

Training

Basic Skills Training and ABAWD training has been updated and has been made available in a PALMS web-based training titled SNAP Employment vs ABAWD 2021 on September 20, 2021.

Effective Date

This policy is effective October 1, 2021.