



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*



Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents

# ABAWD Overview

## (Able-Bodied Adult without Dependents)

This presentation includes information about:

- The ABAWD Time Limit
  - ABAWD Time Limit Exemptions
  - ABAWD Work Requirements
  - ABAWD Reporting Requirements
  - Additional NA benefits beyond the 3 month limit.
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# Able-Bodied Adult without Dependents (ABAWD)

Participants subject to the ABAWD time limit can receive three countable months of NA benefits in a three year period.

The ABAWD three year period is the same for all participants who are subject to the ABAWD time limit in Arizona.

The 36-month ABAWD period for Arizona began on 01/01/2022 and ends on 12/31/2024.

When a participant meets one of the following, during a benefit month, that month does not count toward the ABAWD time limit.

- An ABAWD exemption
  - An NA work requirement exemption
  - The ABAWD work requirements
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# AGE

Participants are exempt from ABAWD time limit when they meet ***one*** of the following:

- Under 18 years of age

The 18-year-old participant is exempt through the month in which they turn 18.

- Age 53 and over

The 53-year-old participant becomes exempt in the month they turn 53. (Effective 10/01/2023)

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# Residing with a Minor Child Under Age 18

When a participant resides with a minor child:

- The minor child is required to be included in the same household.
  - The minor child is not required to be eligible for NA benefits.
  - This exemption applies through the month in which the minor child turns 18.
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# Mentally or Physically Unfit for Work

Unfit for work includes reason that affects the ability to work, maintain employment, or restricts the range of employment opportunities including, but not limited to:

Mental conditions	Life circumstances
Physical conditions	Recovering from surgery
Learning disabilities	Physical limitations due to disability
Emotional challenges	Receipt of temporary or permanent disability benefits from a governmental or private source
Difficulty handling stressful situations, or being around people	Victims of domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or stalking

# Pregnancy

Participants who are pregnant in any trimester are exempt.

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# Homeless

The participants have as their primary nighttime residence *any* of the following:

- A supervised shelter designed to provide temporary shelter.
  - A halfway house or similar institution providing temporary residence.
  - A rent free accommodation in the residence of another person for not more than 90 days.
  - A place not designed, or ordinarily used, for sleeping, including a hallway, a bus station, a lobby, or other similar places.
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# Veterans (Effective 09/01/2023)

Participants who served in the United States Armed Forces and who were discharged or released, regardless of the conditions of the discharge or release.

United States Armed Forces includes *all* of the following branches:

Air Force      Army      Coast Guard      Marine Corps  
National Guard      Navy      Space Force

Including participants who served in a reserve component of the Armed Forces.

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# Former Foster Care Youth age 24 and Under

A participant age 24 and under who was in the custody of foster care when the participant turned age 18, or a higher age when the foster care allows foster care beyond the age of 18.

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# Geographical

As 10/01/2023:

The geographical exemption will apply to participants living outside of Maricopa county, or on any Tribal reservation. The ABAWD time limit will apply to participants who reside in Maricopa county.

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# Additional Exemptions for ABAWD

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- Earning an amount equal to or more than:
  - The Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours, regardless of the number of hours worked.
  - A total of at least \$217.50 per week or \$870 per month.
- Participating and complying in one of the following:
  - The Cash Assistance (CA) Jobs Program
  - The Refugee Resettlement Program
  - The Tribal Native Employment Works (NEW) Program
  - The Tribal TANF Employment Program
- Responsible for the care of an incapacitated person
- Participating in a drug or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program

- Applying for or receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits.
- A student enrolled at least half time in any recognized school, including high school, training programs, or institutions of higher education.
- Receiving Social Security Supplemental Income (SSI).
- Work as a migrant or seasonal farmworker not living in their home project area, and meet any of the following:
  - Following the job stream
  - Working a minimum of 30 hours weekly
  - Under contract or agreement to begin employment within 30 days

# The ABAWD Work Requirements

Participants who have paid work of 20 hours a week or an average of 80 hours per month.

Working also includes any combination of the following:

- Paid work
- Self-employment
- Volunteer work
- In-kind work

Or, when a participant completes volunteer work for 80 or more hours per month.

# Employment and Training Programs

- The SNAP CAN for 20 hours per week, or 80 hours a month.
  - Note: Job search must be less than half of the required 20 hours per week.
- Participation in the Workforce Investment Opportunities Act (WIOA) Program.
- Participation in the Trade Adjustment Act (TAA).
- Participating at least half-time (as defined by the program) in an approved Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP), .

# Reporting Requirement

Participants who are subject to ABAWD time limit, and are meeting the work requirement at the time of their initial interview are required to report a change to the Family Assistance Administration (FAA), when their work hours drop below 20 hours per week or less than an average of 80 hours per month.



# Regaining Eligibility

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When a participant loses NA eligibility after reaching the 3-month time limit, eligibility can be regained when the participant in any 30-day period before reapplication:

- Met the ABAWD work requirement of 80 hours.
- Participated in a employment and training program for at least 80 hours.
- Met a combination of work and work program participation for the 80 hours.

# Regaining Eligibility (continued)

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When a participant loses NA eligibility after reaching the 3-month time limit, eligibility can be regained when the participant:

- Meets an ABAWD exemption
- Meets the ABAWD work requirements
- Meets an NA work requirement exemption
- Enters a new 36 month (3 year) ABAWD period

There is no limit to the number of times a participant can regain eligibility.

# An Additional Three Months Extension

NA eligibility may be reestablished after the loss

- Employment or Training

Three more months of benefits may be approved, with the following requirements:

- The ABAWD work requirement was met during any 30 consecutive days.
- Is no longer meeting the ABAWD work requirement due to the loss of employment or training.
- Has not received an ABAWD extension in the current three years period.

# Resources

For more information regarding the ABAWD policy, see the [Cash and Nutrition Assistance Policy \(CNAP\) Manual](#) sections:

- FAA2.M09A titled ABAWD Eligibility and Requirements
- FAA2.M09B titled Exemptions from ABAWD Work Requirement and Time Limit

Visit the DES website:

- [des.az.gov/abawd](https://des.az.gov/abawd)
- [des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/food-assistance/nutrition-assistance/change-report-nutrition-cash-and-medical](https://des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/food-assistance/nutrition-assistance/change-report-nutrition-cash-and-medical)



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Are there any questions?  
Thank you for allowing me to discuss this topic with you