

## PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING ABAWD ELIGIBILITY

### Food Assistance rule 5101:4-3-20 and 5101:4-3-30

Step	Food Assistance
1.	<p>Screen for any Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD). These individuals are required to work in order to be eligible for assistance. ABAWDS are eligible for ongoing food assistance benefits if they are meeting a <b><u>work requirement</u></b> or are <b><u>not subject to ABAWD work requirements</u></b>.</p> <p>If an individual is subject to the ABAWD work requirement, but he or she is not fulfilling the work requirement, that individual may not receive food assistance for more than 3 <b><u>countable months</u></b> during any 36 month period.</p>
2.	<p>An individual is not subject to the ABAWD work requirement if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet a Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAET) exemption listed in OAC rule 5101:4-3-11(B);</li> <li>• Are the parent of an assistance group member who is under the age of 18;</li> <li>• Have been determined to be physically or mentally unfit for employment;</li> <li>• Are under age 18;</li> <li>• Are 50 years of age or older;</li> <li>• Reside in an assistance group (AG) where an AG member is under age 18, even if the AG member who is under 18 is not eligible for food assistance;</li> <li>• Are pregnant; or</li> <li>• Reside in a county where the ABAWD work requirement was waived.</li> </ul>
3.	<p>An ABAWD who does not meet one of the criteria listed in Step 2 are subject to the following work requirements and may need a work activity referral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working 20 hours per week in exchange for money, goods or services (in-kind work) or verified unpaid work, averaged monthly;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program 20 hours or more per week;</li> <li>• Work Experience Program (WEP): Food assistance allotment divided by state or federal minimum wage (whichever is higher);</li> <li>• Job Search and Job Readiness: Cannot be more than nine hours per week;</li> <li>• Education and Training: 20 hours per week alone or combined with job search, job readiness;</li> <li>• Any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours or more per week, as determined by the county agency.</li> </ul>
4.	Verify the number of hours an ABAWD individual is working or participating.
5.	Determine good cause for missed hours when the circumstance is beyond the individual's control. Good cause reasons include, but are not limited to: illness, illness of another AG member requiring the presence of the member, an assistance group emergency, or the unavailability of transportation. An ABAWD has seven days from the non-compliance to show good cause. An individual providing good cause shall be considered to have met the work requirement if the absence from work is temporary and the individual retains his or her job.
6.	<p>An ABAWD who exhausts their 3 countable months of food assistance within a 36 month period by not meeting the work requirement and reapplies, may regain eligibility if during any 30 consecutive days, he or she has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked 80 or more hours or any combination of employment and work program participation for 80 hours or more hours (prorate FA benefits to the date the 80 hours were completed or the date of application, whichever is later);</li> <li>• Completed WEP assignment (prorate FA benefits to the date of application); or</li> <li>• Is no longer subject to the ABAWD work requirement.</li> </ul>
7.	An ABAWD who regained eligibility as listed in Step 6 of this procedure, but has once again failed the work requirement, is eligible for one additional 3 consecutive month period. There is no limit on the number of times an ABAWD may regain eligibility as listed in Step 6, however the ABAWD individual shall not receive an additional 3-month period more than once in any three-year period.