

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)



Case ID: _____
Date: _____

SNAP Work Activity Requirement for ABAWDs
What you need to know to keep getting your benefits

Dear _____:

Why are you receiving this notice?

Beginning April 1, 2020, some SNAP recipients in Louisiana will have to meet federal work requirements. The rules apply to people receiving SNAP who are 18-49 years old and are considered an Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD). There are exceptions for some people from the new rules.

Based on the information we have about your SNAP case, we believe these rules apply to you.

Under these rules, you are limited to three months of SNAP benefits between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2023, unless our records show you are working at least 80 hours a month, volunteering at least 80 hours a month, or participating in an employment and training program for at least 80 hours a month.

What do you need to do?

If you are working, volunteering, or participating in school or training, you must let us know. If you believe you may meet an exception from the rules, you must let us know.

You may let us know by:

- Emailing LaHelpU.DCFS@LA.GOV
- Calling 1-888-LAHELPU (1-888-524-3578)
- Visiting your local DCFS office.

You may be able to get more than three months of SNAP benefits if you meet an exception from these rules. You may meet an exception if you prove one of the following:

- Your SNAP case includes a child under 18 (even if this is not your child)
- You are responsible for the care of a child under age 6 or an incapacitated person
- You are getting disability benefits or veterans disability benefits (at any percentage)
- You have a physical or mental disability that makes you unable to work at least 80 hours per month
- You have experienced physical or psychological trauma from domestic violence and are unable to work at least 80 hours per month
- You are getting unemployment benefits
- You are regularly participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program
- You are pregnant (at any stage)
- You are attending school

(over)

If you do not meet an exception, you will need to meet the work requirement in order to receive SNAP benefits for more than 3 months. There are three ways you can meet the work requirement:

- Work 80 hours per month (this includes work for pay or as a volunteer at a business or organization); or,
- Participate at least 80 hours per month in an employment and training program; or,
- Any combination of work and participation in a school or training program for at least 80 hours per month.

If you are meeting the work requirement, you must let us know and provide proof.

What if your situation changes?

If you were meeting the work requirement by working or attending school or training and your hours drop below 80 hours per month, you are required to report that change to DCFS. You must report these by the 10th of the following month.

For example, if you met the work requirement by working 90 hours a month in April and May, but you only work and attend training for 40 hours combined in June, you would have to report that change by July 10th.

If you do not report these changes on time, you may be required to repay some benefits.

Where can you find information about training programs?

For a list of SNAP Employment and Training program providers, visit the DCFS web page at www.dcfsl.a.gov/snapet.

Where can you find more information about ABAWDs?

For more information about ABAWDs, visit the DCFS web page at www.dcfsl.a.gov/ABAWD. You can get the forms you may need to help prove that you meet an exception to the ABAWD work requirement or that you meet the ABAWD work requirement.

DCFS is now using an automated messaging system. You may receive a text, email, or automated telephone call about SNAP and ABAWD work requirements from DCFS.

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture also prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027), found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW , Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers (click the link for a listing of hotline numbers by State); found online at: SNAP Hotline.

To file a complaint of discrimination regarding a program receiving Federal financial assistance through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), write: HHS Director, Office for Civil Rights, Room 515-F, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201 or call (800) 368-1019 (voice).

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