

FSET GEOGRAPHIC WAIVER

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Income Maintenance Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting



Background

States may request to waive the ABAWD work requirement in areas with a high unemployment rate. Individuals in waived areas can continue to participate in the FSET program but no longer have to comply with the ABAWD work requirement to maintain their FoodShare benefits. Wisconsin has received approval from FNS to waive the ABAWD work requirement in applicable areas of the state in FFY2020.

Goals

- Apply ABAWD exemptions to individuals residing in geographic areas of the State with high unemployment rates as specified in the ABAWD waiver effective Oct 1, 2019.
- Update ABAWD statuses in alignment with current policy as members move into or out of waiver regions
- At implementation, the waiver should be applied to all applicable individuals effective Oct 1, 2019.

Policy Changes

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- The following FoodShare members will be exempt from the ABAWD work requirement:
 - People who live in Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Iron, Forest, and Menominee counties.
 - Tribal members who live on tribal lands belonging to: Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

System Changes

CARES Enhancements

- CARES will identify applicants and members who reside in applicable counties and the zip codes that contain tribal lands.
- FoodShare applicants will be required to answer the tribal membership question on the Permanent Demographics page.
 - If the applicant chooses not to answer the question, then the worker should select “No”.
 - If the applicant answers “Yes”, verification is not required. Workers should select “Q- Not Yet Verified” if verification is not provided. This will not pend the FoodShare case.

CARES Enhancements

| Tribal Member Information | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Are you a member of an American Indian Tribe or an Alaskan Native, or the child or grandchild of a member? | <input type="text" value="Yes"/> | Verification: | <input type="text" value="? - NOT YET VERIFIED"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Are you eligible to receive health care from Indian Health Services or at a tribal clinic? | <input type="text"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Verification: | <input type="text"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have you received services from Indian Health Service or a tribal health program? | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Federally Recognized Tribe | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Are you a member of a federally recognized tribe: | <input type="text"/> | Do you want to receive FSET services through your tribe? | <input type="text"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribe Name: | <input type="text"/> | Tribal Processing FSET Referral: | <input type="text"/> |

CARES Enhancements

- CARES will be enhanced with two new FoodShare exemption reason codes:
 - WC - Waiver County UN
 - WT - Waiver Tribal Lands UN
- The individual's ABAWD status will be "Non-ABAWD" with one of the new exemption reasons
- If an individual has a FS Clock, the clock status will be "Exempt"

CARES Enhancements

Refer to FSET

Cancel

| Referral Information | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Individual | Referral Type | Date of Last Referral Sent | ABAWD Status | Met Work Requirement | FS Eligible | Exemption Reason(s) | Category Sequence | Send Referral | Referral History |
| ANNABELLE FOODSHARE 29F | Non-Time-Limited Benefits | | Non-ABAWD | N/A | Eligible | WT | 01 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Cancel

Applying Exemptions

- After batch eligibility is run in November for the recurring month (December 2019), the new exemption will be applied to everyone who lives in a waiver county or is a tribal member living on the waiver tribal lands
- CARES will update FS Clocks for ABAWDs who meet the exemption criteria in October, November, and December 2019 from “TL” to “Exempt”

Impact to IM

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- After implementation, DHS will provide reports for IM workers to run eligibility on individuals who are ABAWDs but meet the criteria for the new exemptions for October and November, and issue supplements if needed (for members who lost eligibility due to having 3 TLBs).

Release Readiness Activities

Upcoming Events

- October 8, 2019: Ops Memo
- October 2019: CARES Bulletin
- October 2019: Process Help update