



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

MAR 23 2012

Cheryl Kennedy, Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, MPRO
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903
Denver, CO 80204-3585

Dear Ms. Kennedy,

Iowa is currently operating under a waiver that suspends the time limits for receipt of SNAP benefits for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) through September 30, 2012. Under federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), a state can qualify for a 12-month statewide ABAWD waiver if the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Service determines it meets the criteria for extended unemployment benefits.

The March 21, 2012 "All Regional Directors" memo announced that Iowa is one of 46 states or geographic areas that meets the criteria for extended unemployment benefits, and therefore qualifies for the 12-month statewide ABAWD waiver. The memo provides that by notifying the Regional Office of its intent to adopt the waiver, a state may continue to suspend the time limits on ABAWDs through at least September 30, 2013.

I am writing to inform you that Iowa will take advantage of this opportunity and continue to suspend the three-month time limits on ABAWDs through September 30, 2013.

This option continues to be a great benefit to Iowans in difficult economic times. I appreciate the effort FNS makes to help states reduce administrative burdens for both recipients and eligibility workers, and to provide the most benefits possible to recipient households.

Sincerely,

Wendy Rickman, Administrator
Division of Adult, Children and Family Services

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