



Department for Children and Families
Economic Services Division
Food and Nutrition Programs
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August 2, 2011

Bonnie Brathwaite, Director
USDA/NERO/FNS/SNAP
10 Causeway St., Room 501
Boston, MA 02222

SUBJECT: Intent to Extend Suspension of ABAWD Time Limits through September 2012

Dear Ms. Brathwaite: *Bonnie*

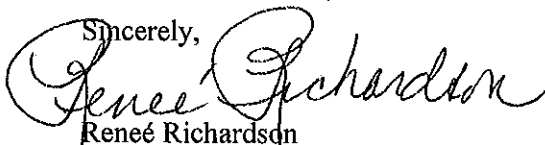
FNS issued guidance on May 3, 2011 that listed 46 states as qualifying for a 12-month statewide Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver based on meeting the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Service criteria for extended unemployment benefits. Vermont had qualified for a statewide ABAWD waiver in the past under these criteria but was not listed among the 46 qualifying states for the coming year.

However, the May 3rd guidance also indicated that State agencies appearing on a different DOL Trigger Notice beginning subsequent to October 1, 2010, would also qualify for a fiscal year 2012 ABAWD waiver. Vermont appears on the Tier 3 trigger notice for emergency unemployment compensation beginning March 20, 2011. Pursuant to the guidance above, and Vermont's appearance "***on a different DOL Trigger Notice beginning no earlier than October 1, 2010***," please consider this email correspondence to be our written notification of intent to continue our waiver to suspend ABAWD time limits through September 30, 2012.

Although ABAWDS will not be subject to time limits and work participation rules, they will continue to be mandatory work registrants and will be registered for work by the department at initial certification and once every 12 months thereafter.

Please contact me at 802-241-2820, or by email at Renee.Richardson@ahs.state.vt.us, if you have any further questions.

Thank you for this opportunity to continue to provide much-needed food assistance to this often vulnerable population.

Sincerely,

Renee Richardson
Director

/rwr

cc: MaryAnn Marshall, Program Specialist, FNS
Richard Giddings, Deputy Commissioner, ESD