



DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Scott Walker
Governor

Dennis G. Smith
Secretary

State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

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August 15, 2012

Patricia Solis, Regional Director
SNAP
USDA, Midwest Regional Office
77 West Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Ms. Solis:

Under Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), a State can qualify for a 12-month statewide Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver if the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Service determines the State meets the criteria. Wisconsin currently adopts the suspension of time limited benefits for ABAWDS as a continuation of programmatic practice commenced in 2008.

It is Wisconsin's intent to lift the suspension of time limited benefits for nonexempt ABAWDs at the soonest possible opportunity. More Wisconsin residents are finding jobs and the DHS believes fundamentally that able bodied adults are best served through active engagement in the workforce. Nevertheless, the fiscal realities of developing and enforcing work program requirements require the DHS to seek additional funding authority to pursue this goal for people on FoodShare. As such, Wisconsin would like to respectfully request an extension of our current policy until July 1, 2013. We are actively working towards new program options that will provide beneficial work support and employment services to people on FoodShare, and plan to amend our policy accordingly in the near future.

Thank you for considering this request. If you have any questions, you or your staff may contact Margaret Rosenthal at (608) 261-9420.

Sincerely,

Shawn Smith
FoodShare Director

cc Margaret Rosenthal DHCAA/BEPS
Sabrina Fox DHCAA/BEPS
Sara Edmonds DHCAA/BEPS