

THIS LETTER APPLIES TO THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES ONLY:

Alexander County	Cleveland County	Martin County	Stanly County
Alleghany County	Columbus County	Northampton County	Surry County
Anson County	Duplin County	Pender County	Swain County
Ashe County	Edgecombe County	Person County	Tyrrell County
Bertie County	Graham County	Richmond County	Vance County
Bladen County	Greene County	Robeson County	Warren County
Burke County	Halifax County	Rockingham County	Yancey County
Caldwell County	Hoke County	Rutherford County	
Caswell County	Hyde County	Sampson County	
Catawba County	Lincoln County	Scotland County	

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. ECONOMIC SERVICES 2-2005, Continuing ABAWD Exemption Under the Extended Benefits Waiver (March 24, 2005)

(Food Stamps)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food Stamp Supervisors

DATE: March 24, 2005

RE: Continuing ABAWD Exemption Under the Extended Benefits Waiver

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2005

I. BACKGROUND

As you know, the Food Stamp Program requires able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) between the ages of 18 and 49 to participate in work activities as a condition of eligibility, except when they reside in counties deemed Labor Surplus Areas (LSA) by the United States Department of Labor.

On April 1, 2004, your county began exempting ABAWDs from the three-month time limit based on designation as a Labor Surplus Area. See DSS Administrative Letter No. 1-2004 dated March 19, 2004. The LSA designation lasts through March 31, 2005.

North Carolina has 40 additional counties exempting ABAWDs from the three-month time limit under an Extended Benefits (EB) waiver approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in July 2004 because unemployed individuals in our state received extended unemployment benefits during 2003. See DSS Administrative Letter No. 3-2004 dated June 24, 2004.

The Extended Benefits waiver is a statewide waiver that is in effect through June 30, 2005, that allows continued exemption from the three-month time limit for ABAWDs. Therefore, LSA counties will continue to exempt ABAWDs from the three-month time limit through June 30, 2005, under the existing EB Waiver.

We are in discussions with USDA regarding an extension of the EB waiver through November 2005. We will advise you when and if the extension is approved by USDA.

II. POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Households containing an ABAWD can continue to be certified longer than three months. Work registration requirements are still applicable under the EB waiver, and employment and training (E&T) requirements and sanctions for non-compliance continue to apply.

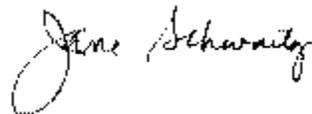
The Extended Benefits waiver is in effect through June 30, 2005.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

No additional implementation instructions are required. Please continue to follow the instructions currently outlined in the Administrative Letters listed above.

If you have any questions concerning the policy contained in this letter, please contact your Food Assistance and Energy Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Schwartz".

Jane Schwartz, Chief

Economic Services Section

JS/DP