

SNAP CERTIFICATION MANUAL – SECTION 3000

3500 The SNAP Requirement to Work (RTW)

Voluntary Quit

3502.2 ~~15 Percent~~ **Discretionary Exemptions**

SNAP Manual ~~01/01/1705/01/2022~~

~~FNS provides the State Agency an allotted number of discretionary exemptions equal to twelve percent of the State's SNAP participation caseload. The State agency may use these exemptions to extend SNAP eligibility to individuals no longer eligible to participate in SNAP due to the three (3) month Able-Bodied Adult RTW time limit. Discretionary exemptions are granted to one Able-Bodied Adult for one month. The decision to exempt an individual from RTW must be documented in the case record.~~

~~The Division of County Operations is FNS provides for each state agency to be allotted exemptions equal to 15 percent of the State's caseload that is ineligible for program benefits because of the able bodied adult RTW time limit. These exemptions allow the State agency to extend SNAP eligibility to able bodied adults who would otherwise be ineligible because of the 3 in 3 year time limit. Each 15 percent exemption extends eligibility to 1 able bodied adult for 1 month.~~

~~States do not earn exemptions in areas that are covered by the time limit waivers. FNS considers a State's time limit waiver status as of approximately July 1 of each year when allotting annual exemptions.~~

~~DHS is required to track and track report the number of personal discretionary exemptions used since these exemptions must be reported quarterly from the Division of County Operations each quarter via the FNS-583 form. The report must include the total number of exemptions used and the name and SSN of the individual that was granted the exemption. Discretionary exemptions do not expire and any unused exemptions from the previous fiscal year can carry over from year to year. Exemptions do not expire and State agencies can carry over unused exemptions from year to year. The FNS national office provides data annually on the number of exemptions each State has used and the new exemptions earned by each state agency during the year.~~

~~The decision to exempt an individual from the RTW must be documented in the case record. Personal RTW exemptions must be tracked for submission of quarterly reports to FNS. The report must include the total number of exemptions granted, the name, and SSN of the individual granted the exemption.~~

3502.3 Assignment of ~~15 Percent Personal Exemptions~~ **Discretionary Exemptions**

SNAP Manual ~~01/01/1705/01/2022~~

~~Discretionary exemptions allow certain individuals an opportunity to establish or re-establish themselves into the community. Discretionary exemptions may be assigned to the following groups:~~

~~In order to allow certain individuals an opportunity to establish or to re-establish themselves into the community, 15% Personal Exemptions may be assigned to the following groups.~~

- ~~• Individuals who are currently in Foster Care~~
- ~~• Individuals who are exiting Prison and/or Half-Way Houses~~

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- ~~• Individuals who are exiting Drug and/or Alcohol Rehabilitation Centers~~
- Individuals who are in Battered Women's Shelters

Individuals who are currently in Foster Care or Battered Women's Shelters may be exempt from the RTW until they exit Foster Care or the Battered Women's Shelter.

~~Individuals who are exiting Prison and/or Halfway Houses and Drug/Alcohol Rehabilitation Treatment Centers may be granted a 15% Personal Exemption from the RTW for 3 months.~~

Mark-UP

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: H3/8/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1512

5 By: Representative Underwood
6 By: Senator Hester
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE WORK AMONG ENROLLEES IN THE
10 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; TO AMEND
11 THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS
12 ACT OF 2019; TO ELIMINATE NO-GOOD-CAUSE EXEMPTIONS TO
13 THE WORK REQUIREMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14
15

Subtitle

16 TO PROMOTE WORK IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL
17 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
18
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 76, Subchapter 8, is
24 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 20-76-805. Elimination of no-good-cause exemptions to the work
26 requirement for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

27 Beginning no later than May 1, 2022, the Department of Human Services
28 shall not exercise the state option to provide exemptions to the work
29 requirement as authorized under 7 U.S.C. § 2015(o)(6), as it existed on
30 January 1, 2021, except to an individual:

31 (1) Currently in foster care; or

32 (2) Residing in a domestic violence shelter.
33

34 /s/Underwood

35 APPROVED: 3/23/21
36

