



## Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)

- Benefits are limited to 3 full months per 3 year period to an individual.
- Unless the individual:
  - is working (paid, unpaid or in-kind) 20 hours a week,
  - is in a qualifying training slot 20 hours a week,
  - doing workfare or community service, or
  - meets one of the limited exemptions

[cbpp.org](http://cbpp.org)

This means that approximately 260,000 able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) will be able to continue to receive SNAP benefits for more than three months in a three-year period. There was one exception, though - DuPage County.

Starting in January 2018, those that are considered ABAWDs, living in DuPage County, may be at risk of only receiving benefits for 3 months (instead of 1 year) IF:

- o they are not working
- o they are not receiving disability
- o they do not have children/or are pregnant
- o they are not receiving unemployment
- o they are not mentally or physically incapable of working

Those who are not "exempt" but want to continue receiving benefits will have to participate in an approved job-training program or somehow prove they are unable to work. They need to talk to IDHS if they want to prove their exemption. They should also make sure their case is up to date with their office if they have recently gotten a job.

This means that clients may start losing their benefits as of April 1, 2018, and there may be an influx of clients coming to your pantry. Northern Illinois Food Bank is keeping our eyes and ears open to any information about these changes as it comes in in order to share it with you so we can work together to help those impacted.

DHS is sending letters to those currently receiving benefits that have been identified as ABAWDS, letting them know of the eligibility changes and what they need to do to continue receiving benefits. When engaging with your clients, let them know this and urge them to open any mail they receive from DHS so they do not miss any information pertaining to their eligibility.