



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Charlie Crist
Governor

George H. Sheldon
Secretary

DATE: June 16, 2009 **TRANSMITTAL NO.:** I - 09-06-0020

TO: ACCESS Florida Operations Managers
ACCESS Florida Program Offices

FROM: Nathan Lewis, Chief, Program Policy

SUBJECT: Food Stamp Employment and Training Changes

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2009

This memorandum is to let staff know about changes to Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) services the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) will offer from July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. These changes are a result of a Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved statewide waiver and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Food Stamp Only Cases and Food Stamp/Temporary Cash Assistance Cases

Effective July 1, 2009, AWI will offer voluntary FSET services to work registrants ages 16 through 39. AWI will send outreach letters to these individuals about the opportunities associated with the volunteer FSET program. The Regional Workforce Boards will serve other volunteer food stamp recipients if funding is available.

FSET penalties and sanctions for failure to comply with work requirements will not apply to individuals in food stamp only cases. If a household is receiving both food stamp benefits and Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), and we receive a request to sanction due to noncompliance with a TCA work requirement, determine if the noncompliant individual meets an FSET exemption or good cause reason. If the non-compliant individual meets an FSET exemption or good cause reason, do not impose a food stamp penalty. If the individual does not meet a food stamp exemption or good cause reason, apply penalties as follows:

1. If the head of the food stamp household is non-compliant - the entire assistance group becomes ineligible for the minimum penalty period.
2. If an assistance group member is non-compliant - Only the non-compliant individual becomes ineligible for the minimum penalty period.

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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

FSET Services for ABAWDs

Effective July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010, time limits will not apply to ABAWDs in any Florida counties. There is not a requirement to enter time-limited months on the "ARFS" screen during these months.

Previously sanctioned ABAWDs and ABAWDs who have received food stamp benefits in three time-limited months, who reapply for food stamp benefits beginning July 1, 2009, may be eligible as long as they have served the minimum penalty period and meet all eligibility requirements. These individuals do not have to comply with FSET prior to approval of an application.

Mandatory or Exempt

At application and recertification, enter the correct "PART STAT" (participation status) code on the "AGPI" screen to show individuals are mandatory or exempt and enter "N" in the "VUL AWD" (vulnerable ABAWD) field to show individuals are not time limited.

Continue to provide the Food Stamp Work Registration Notice CF-ES 2095 to households with members in a mandatory status.

If there are policy questions, circuit/region offices may contact Connie Mathers at (850) 921-5578.

cc: Director (Jennifer Lange)
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