

# SNAP Time Limit for Unemployed Workers

Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Tennessee will impose time limits on some SNAP (formerly Food Stamp Program) participants in 79 counties across the state, including Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga. These participants may only receive SNAP benefits for a total of three full months for the 36-month period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018, UNLESS they are exempt by meeting work requirements, having barriers to employment, or living in a waived county (see back page for more information) AND are otherwise eligible. They MAY qualify for an additional three-months under certain circumstances.

## Who is subject to time limits?

Any SNAP participant between 18 and 49 years old who:

- Does not meet certain work/training requirements for average of 80 hrs./month,
- Does not meet an exemption (see back page), and
- Is not living in a waived county.

## When do time limits not count?

- Time limits do not count for any month that an exemption applies (see back page).
- First month of SNAP help doesn't count against the time limit if the participant applied after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.
- After reaching the three-month limit, if the participant meets a work/training exemption for at least one full month then they will get a 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive 3-months even if they are not exempt.

## How community organizations can help

- **Use** Tennessee Justice Center's SNAP Time Limit Checklist to see if participants are exempt.
- **Ensure** exempt individuals contact their SNAP office to provide information about their exempt status and help them gather the needed documentation.
- **Contact TJC (877-608-1009) if you meet someone who was incorrectly cut off from SNAP due to time limits.**
- **Ensure** individuals subject to time limits contact their SNAP office to find out how they can meet these requirements and enroll in qualifying activities.
- **Connect** people willing to share their SNAP story with TJC (877-608-1009).

## Additional Resources

To find your local SNAP/DHS office, visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/TNDHSoffices>

To find your local American Job Center, visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/TNOneStops>

## Quick Facts: Work Exemptions, Other Exemptions, Waivers

### Work/Training Exemptions

- Earning an average of \$935/month or \$11,350/year (e.g. School employees, seasonal workers, self-employed)
- Working an average of 80 hours/month. Including:
  - Paid work
  - Work for trade (i.e. work for rent or other goods/services)
  - Unpaid work/volunteering
- Participating in a qualifying training program an average of 80 hours/month:
  - Includes WIOA, Trade Adjustment Act, SNAP E&T, Adult Basic Education (HiSET, GED)
  - Usually offered at Dept. of Labor American Job Centers (AJCs)
- Combining work and training programs for an average of 80 hours/month
- Meeting Families First requirements

### Barriers to Employment Exemptions

- Under age 18 or 50 years or older
- Physically or mentally unable to work
- Caring for an “incapacitated person” (disabled, frail, or ill person)
- Living with a child under 18 (does not have to be related to participant or on SNAP)
- Pregnant
- Participating in drug or alcohol treatment
- Receiving/applied for unemployment benefits and meeting requirements
- Enrolled at least half-time in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education AND meeting student eligibility criteria
- Temporarily unable to work due to illness, household emergency, lack of transportation
- Leaving a job with good cause (only for month in which he/she left employment)
- Any other good cause for not working

### Waived Counties

Individuals living in the following counties in Tennessee have been waived from time limits through January 31, 2019:

1. Bledsoe
2. Campbell
3. Claiborne
4. Cocke
5. Fentress
6. Grundy
7. Hancock
8. Hardeman
9. Haywood
10. Lake
11. Lauderdale
12. McNairy
13. Perry
14. Scott
15. Van Buren
16. Wayne