IMPORTANT NOTICE

You may be required to meet work requirements to continue receiving Food and Nutrition Services.

Effective January 1, 2016, the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Program has a work requirement rule for adults who are ages 18 through 49, able to work and have no child(ren) under age 18 included in your FNS benefits. You are receiving this letter because you or someone in your household has been identified as a potential individual meeting these requirements. This requirement is often referenced as the ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adult without Dependents) work requirement. The ABAWD rule means you can only get food assistance for 3 months within a 36 month period unless you meet certain work requirements.

Individuals who are able to work must do so unless you meet one of the following conditions:

- Exempt from FNS work requirements;
- Under 18 or 50 years of age or older;
- Physically or mentally unfit for employment;
- Pregnant;
- Has a child(ren) under 18 included in your FNS benefits;
- Care for a dependent adult; or
- In school at least half time (as defined by any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.)

In order to receive FNS benefits; you and/or another member(s) of your household that is an ABAWD must meet one of the work requirements by participating 20 hours a week **or** 80 hours per month in any of the following:

- Paid Work
- Work program such as Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Volunteering with an approved public or private agency
- Employment and Training (E&T) program that includes qualifying ABAWD activities such as job search and/or job search training
- A combination of any of the above.

You and/or another member(s) of your household that is an ABAWD will only receive 3 full months, beginning January 1, 2016, of food assistance if any of the ABAWD work requirements (listed above) are not met.

If you have any questions about this information, contact your county department of social services or call 1-866-719-0141.