



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Economic Services Administration
Post Office Box 45440 Olympia WA 98504-5440

April 9, 2021

Dear Stakeholders and Community Partners,

It is with great disappointment that I share the discontinuation of the Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) Navigator program. It is times like this when I am most grateful for our partnerships as we work to mitigate the impacts of this change from affecting our shared customers. I recognize you may be receiving questions from customers who are worried about their Basic Food benefits, and I ask for your support to communicate our continued commitment to meet the needs of Washington's ABAWD population.

The Department of Social and Health Services contracted ABAWD Navigator services through the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. The program connected ABAWD clients to activities in their local community to meet federal work requirements, however due to funding changes the program ended April 1, 2021. DSHS is working to contact all ABAWDs with scheduled Navigator appointments and provide appropriate referral information.

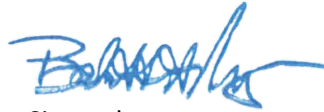
Thankfully, Washington ABAWDs are not at risk of losing their Basic Food assistance due to flexibilities in federal policy related to the Public Health Emergency. As a reminder, ABAWDs residing in King County are eligible to receive "Good Cause" for not meeting ABAWD participation requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic, and ABAWDs living outside of King County are covered under a federal participation waiver.

DSHS remains committed to connecting those we serve, who are able and choose to participate, to Employment and Training programs and the necessary resources.

- DSHS will continue to refer clients to the Basic Food Employment and Training Program, or BFET, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act providers.
- State Board for Community and Technical Colleges will continue to work with local Community Based Organizations to support students virtually.

Again, I thank you for your partnership and support as we navigate through these challenging times. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Thank you.



Sincerely,

Babs Roberts / Director / Community Services Division

Economic Services Administration

Department of Social and Health Services

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