
Due to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and statewide ABAWD waiver approval from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), there are no mandatory FSET requirements from January 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012. For more information on the statewide ABAWD waiver, see [§6.6](#) (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS)).

The ARRA and the statewide ABAWD waiver supersede the policy in this section.

The county agency or its Employment Services Provider (ESP) must provide an orientation to the FSET program for each Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) referred to the program. The purpose of the orientation is to explain participation requirements, describe available services, identify the ESP, explain that FSET can help ABAWDs meet their eligibility and work requirements, and encourage the participant to move to self-sufficiency through employment.

Mandatory participants must be notified of the requirement to participate in an orientation. The county agency must send the FSET Orientation Notice from the MAXIS system to the FSET participant. The FSET Orientation notice must contain the following information:

- The requirement that the participant attend an orientation.
- Date of the orientation.
- Time the orientation.
- Place of the orientation.
- Name and telephone number of an ESP contact person.
- A statement that Food Support (FS) assistance will end if the mandatory participant fails, without good cause, to comply with FSET requirements.

An orientation must be provided to mandatory participants within 30 days of the county approving FS eligibility. Mandatory participants who fail to attend or comply with the orientation are subject to FSET program sanctions. See [§6.12](#) (Failure to Comply With FSET Requirements), [§6.15](#) (Sanctions For Failure To Comply).

An orientation must be provided at least once during any 12 consecutive calendar month period. The 12 consecutive calendar month period begins on the 1st of the month after the month of eligibility, and ends on the last day of the 12th consecutive month.

The orientation may be done either individually or in a group setting. It may be provided through audio-visual methods as long as the participant has the opportunity for face-to-face questions and answers.

The orientation must include:

- Work or work program activities that may enable ABAWDs to earn more than 3 months of FS benefits in a 36-month period.
- The requirement to participate in FSET program activities and services.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the ESP.
- The services, including support services, available through FSET and from other providers of similar services.
- The date, time, and address to report for FSET services.
- The consequences for failing, without good cause, to participate in FSET services or to comply with program requirements, including accepting suitable employment.
- Encouragement to view public assistance as a temporary means of supplementing the family's needs as the family moves toward self-sufficiency through employment.