

What's Changed on 04/06/2026

[Change: 2026 ABAWD Geographic Waiver](#)

[Change: Medicare Premiums Paid by the State](#)

[Urgent Bulletin Reminder: 2026 ABAWD Geographic Waiver](#)

[General Information: Forms Update](#)

This page notifies staff and the public of changes to the Cash and Nutrition Assistance Policy (CNAP) Manual regarding policy, procedures, and forms. Reminders and general information may also be displayed on this page. Prior What's Changed pages are listed in [What's Changed History](#) of the CNAP Manual.

The above list summarizes the information on this page. Each item listed above links to the corresponding section below.

Change: 2026 ABAWD Geographic Waiver

EFFECTIVE DATE: For the benefit month of 03/2026.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved the 2026 Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver beginning 03/01/2026 and ending on 02/28/2027 for limited geographic areas within Arizona.

Beginning with the benefit month of 03/2026, the new waiver allows participants living in **all** of the following areas to be exempt from the ABAWD time limit:

- Yuma County
- Cocopah Reservation
- Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land
- Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land
- Salt River Reservation
- San Carlos Reservation
- Pascua Pueblo Yaqui Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land

The geographic exemption is only applicable when an ABAWD participant does not meet any other exemption and is living in one of the areas included in the 2026 ABAWD Waiver.

Starting with the benefit month of 03/2026, the ABAWD Geographic Exemption Code (GE) can be keyed on WERE. For all open cases, FAA Systems runs a report to update the EXPT RSN FS field

on WERE as needed.

FAA Staff need to ensure the appropriate County or Reservation Code is keyed on ADDR, or an AZTECS error message is generated on WERE when the GE Exemption Code is entered. FAA staff can find County and Reservation Codes in the AZTECS Display Table Values on SYSE.

When necessary, FAA requests the participant provide verification of residence on Tribal Off-Reservation Trust Land.

Policy reference(s) revised due to this change:

FAA2.M09B – [ABAWD Exemptions](#)

[Prior Policy](#)

The 2026 ABAWD geographical (partial) waiver was approved from 03/01/26 to 02/28/27. Added geographic exemption for FNS approved areas in Arizona. (Updated as of 04/06/2026)

Change: Medicare Premiums Paid by the State

EFFECTIVE DATE: The CNAP Manual has been updated as of 04/06/2026.

On 02/12/2026, staff were notified with an Urgent Bulletin that Medicare premiums paid by the State of Arizona are no longer keyed in AZTECS on the Unearned Income (UNIN) screen as a vendor payment.

Do not key the Medicare premium when it is verified that it's paid by the State of Arizona. Medicare premiums paid by the State of Arizona are not an allowable expense.

For additional keying information, FAA staff should refer to CNAP+ Manual reference FAA5.I03E titled NA Medical Expenses and Deduction for additional information.

Policy reference(s) revised due to this change:

FAA5.I03E – [NA Medical Expenses and Deduction](#)

[Prior Policy](#)

Removed instructions to key Medicare expenses paid by the State of Arizona as vendor payments. (Updated as of 04/06/2026)

Urgent Bulletin Reminder: 2026 ABAWD Geographic Waiver

An [Urgent Bulletin](#) was emailed on 03/30/2026 to inform staff that the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved the 2026 Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver beginning 03/01/2026 and ending on 02/28/2027 for limited geographic areas within Arizona.

Beginning with the benefit month of 03/2026, the 2026 ABAWD Waiver allows the ABAWD Geographic Exemption Code (GE) for participants living in any of the following areas:

- Yuma County
- Cocopah Reservation
- Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land
- Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land
- Salt River Reservation
- San Carlos Reservation

- Pascua Pueblo Yaqui Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land

FAA uses the ABAWD Geographic Exemption Code only when an ABAWD participant does not meet any other exemption and is living in one of the areas included in the 2026 ABAWD Waiver.

Effective 03/31/2026, the ABAWD Geographic Exemption Code (GE) will be available on WERE for the benefit month of 03/2026 and later. For all open cases, FAA Systems runs an Ad Hoc report to update the EXPT RSN FS field on WERE as needed.

The appropriate County or Reservation Code must be keyed on ADDR, or an AZTECS error message will display on WERE when the GE Exemption Code is keyed. FAA staff can find County and Reservation Codes in DISPLAY TABLE VALUES on SYSE in AZTECS.

The CNAP Manual reference FAA2.M09B titled ABAWD Exemptions is being updated to include this change. When the policy revision is complete, notification will be displayed on the What's Changed page. Until then, refer to this Urgent Bulletin.

General Information: Forms Update

Changes to Forms – 03/28/2026 through 04/03/2026

As a reminder, it is important not to save documents on your desktop or a folder. It is better to use the form you need directly from the [Document Center](#). Forms are frequently updated and sometimes the current form must be used for programming purposes.

Revised forms:

- No forms were revised during the specified period.

Newly created forms:

- No forms were revised during the specified period.

Revised Marketing Materials (Posters, Pamphlets, Flyers):

NOTE When a mandatory poster is listed below, offices must order the mandatory poster through the warehouse. Refer to FAA1.C03F titled Communicate with the Public for more information about posters.

- Changes – What You Need to Know (FAA-1760A) poster (English & Spanish)

For NA, participants must now report when their income goes above 200% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL). The limit changed from 130% of the FPL to 200% of the FPL. Clarified the definition of Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD).

- Programs – What You Need to Know (FAA-001C) brochure (English & Spanish)

For NA, participants must now report when their income goes above 200% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL). The limit changed from 130% of the FPL to 200% of the FPL. Clarified the definition of Able Bodied Adult Without Dependent Children. Clarified that Child Care Assistance (CCA) is part of the Child and Community Services Division.

New Marketing Materials (Posters, Pamphlets, Flyers):

NOTE When a new mandatory poster is listed below, offices must order the mandatory poster through the warehouse. Refer to FAA1.C03F titled Communicate with the Public for more information about posters.

- No new marketing materials were created during the specified period.

Forms and Marketing Materials Archived from the Document Center:

- No forms were archived from the Document Center.