

## **EXPANDED FOOD ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDLESS ADULTS**

### **The Three-Month Time Limit Has Been Lifted**

The Granholm Administration recently sought and received permission from the federal government to extend the time limit for Food Assistance (Food Stamps) for adults without children. Up until now, adults aged 18-49 without dependents could receive assistance for only three consecutive months in a three-year period, unless they were employed, volunteering, or participating in an employment or training program. The new rule extends this time limit up to one year rather than the three-month period.

**Adults without children can now receive Food Assistance for up to twelve months regardless of their employment status.**

The following rules apply:

- Individuals must continue to meet all other eligibility requirements.
- Individuals do not need to reapply if they are currently receiving Food Assistance. The FIA will automatically extend the benefits and will mail a letter regarding eligibility.
- Individuals who do not currently receive Food Assistance must reapply before receiving benefits again, and must provide updated information about income and household circumstances.
- The waiver under which the extension of Food Assistance benefits is granted is effective through February 28, 2005. Additional months of eligibility may be available if the waiver is renewed.

This expanded policy will help ensure an adequate safety net for many Michigan unemployed adults. For more information, please call the Michigan League for Human Services at (517) 487-5436 or the Center for Civil Justice's Michigan Food Stamp Hotline at 1-800-481-4989.

*Prepared by Michigan League for Human Services*