



Date: October 7, 2019

DMS Operations Memo 19-38  
Amended November 22, 2019

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Staff

**Affected Programs:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus      | <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FoodShare | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare           |   |

From: Rebecca McAtee, Bureau Director  
Bureau of Enrollment Policy and Systems  
Division of Medicaid Services

**FoodShare Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents  
Work Requirement Exemption for High Unemployment Areas**

**CROSS REFERENCE**

- FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 3.17.1 Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents \(ABAWDs\)](#)
- 7 CFR 273.24 (f)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

October 1, 2019

**PURPOSE**

This operations memo announces that, effective October 1, 2019, FoodShare members who live in high unemployment areas will be exempt from the able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) work requirement.

**BACKGROUND**

Current federal law states that ABAWDs must meet specific work requirements in order to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. See FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 3.17.1 Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents \(ABAWDs\)](#) for Wisconsin policy details.

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7: 273.24 (f) gives states the authority to apply for ABAWD **policy options** ~~waivers~~. Wisconsin has applied for and received a federal **approval** ~~waiver~~ to exempt FoodShare members who live in areas where the unemployment rate is higher than the national average from the ABAWD work requirement, beginning October 1, 2019.

This document is being issued pursuant to Chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, Federal Register Title 7 Subtitle B Chapter II Subchapter C; and Chapter 49 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

## **POLICY**

Effective October 1, 2019, the following FoodShare member populations will be exempt from the ABAWD work requirement:

- People who live in Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Iron, and Menominee counties.
- Tribal members who live on tribal lands **and reservations** belonging to: Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

These members can continue to participate in the FoodShare Employment & Training (FSET) program as volunteers, which is the current procedure, but no longer have to comply with the ABAWD work requirement to maintain their FoodShare eligibility.

## **CONTACTS**

BEPS CARES Information and Problem Resolution Center

DHS/DMS/BEPS/KV