



Date: September 18, 2020

DMS Operations Memo 20-21

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

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

Update to FoodShare Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Work Requirement Exemptions

CROSS REFERENCE

- FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 3.17.1 Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents \(ABAWDs\)](#)
- Operations Memos [20-05](#) and [19-38](#)
- Process Help, [Chapter 71](#)
- 7 C.F.R. 273.24(f), (g), and (h)
- 84 FR 66782

EFFECTIVE DATE

October 1, 2020

PURPOSE

This operations memo announces changes to exemptions from the able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) work requirement.

BACKGROUND

Federal law states that ABAWDs must meet specific work requirements in order to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Wisconsin ABAWD policy details are available in the FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 3.17.1 Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents \(ABAWDs\)](#). Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7: 273.24 (f) gives states the authority to apply for ABAWD work requirement policy options.

In addition, Operations Memo [20-05](#) described changes to the FNS rules regarding discretionary exemptions. As described in the memo, effective April 1, 2020 discretionary exemptions are being applied to any ABAWD FoodShare member subject to the work requirement who do not already have an exemption and do not meet the work requirement, including those who live in a previously geographically exempt area (those described in Operations Memo [19-38](#)).

POLICY

Wisconsin has applied for and received federal approval, effective October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, to exempt all FoodShare members, statewide, from the ABAWD work requirement based on the state's eligibility for extended unemployment benefits. Members will be informed through letter, email, or ACCESS based on their notification preferences.

Additionally, the current issuance of discretionary exemptions to all ABAWDs not meeting the ABAWD work requirement will end on September 30, 2020. All ABAWDs who received the discretionary exemptions between April 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 will receive a notification detailing the changes to their exemption.

Eligible FoodShare ABAWDs can continue to participate in the FoodShare Employment & Training (FSET) program as volunteers but will not have to comply with the ABAWD work requirement to maintain their FoodShare eligibility beyond three time-limited months.

CONTACTS

BEPS CARES Information and Problem Resolution Center

DHS/DMS/BEPS/KV