



Date: June 16, 2023

DMS Operations Memo 23-20

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 | |

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Division of Medicaid Services

Reinstatement of FoodShare Work Requirement

CROSS REFERENCE

- FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 3.17.1 FoodShare Work Requirements for ABAWDs](#)
- FSET Policy Handbook, [Section 6.3 FSET Participation Requirements](#)
- Operations Memo [22-11, New Consolidated Notice and Oral Explanation of FoodShare Work Requirements](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

July 1, 2023

PURPOSE

This memo announces the reinstatement of the FoodShare work requirement policy that was suspended during the federal public health emergency (PHE) related to COVID-19.

BACKGROUND

Some FoodShare members aged 18 to 49 with no minor children in their FoodShare group must meet a work requirement, or have a qualifying exemption, to receive more than three months of benefits in a three-year period. This is called the FoodShare Work Requirement.

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services declared a federal PHE on January 31, 2020, related to COVID-19 (previously called “2019 Novel Coronavirus” and “2019-nCoV”). Based on related changes in federal and state law, Wisconsin implemented temporary program policies and processes to protect the health and safety of applicants and members. This included suspension of the time limit associated with the FoodShare Work Requirement. A combination of federal flexibilities and Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) allowed the State to suspend the FoodShare work requirement time limit.

POLICY

Under FFCRA, the FoodShare work requirement time limit is temporarily and partially suspended through the end of the month following the month the PHE ends. The PHE ended on May 11, 2023, and the federal suspension is ending on June 30, 2023.

FOODSHARE WORK REQUIREMENT

Effective July 1, 2023, the FoodShare work requirement time limit policy will be reinstated and phased in over a nine-month period. After the nine-month phase in period, all FoodShare members and applicants who are considered an Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) will have to be meeting the work requirement or have an exemption to keep getting benefits. During the phase in period, applicable members will be notified in advance of needing to meet the work requirement.

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEEP/KV

DHS/DMS/BEOT/