



Date: July 21, 2023

DMS Operations Memo 23-24

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

Affected Programs:

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

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FoodShare Expungement Period Changes

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 17, 2023

PURPOSE

This operations memo announces a change to the timeframe in which FoodShare and Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits are expunged from Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards.

BACKGROUND

Current policy states that any benefit older than 12 months (365 days) is expunged if there is no EBT card usage for a period of 365 days. Expungement is the process of removing benefits from affected EBT cards. The 12-month period resets every time a member uses their EBT card to purchase eligible food items, regardless of amount. After 365 days of no EBT card usage, any benefits that have been available to the cardholder for 365 or more calendar days are expunged. Benefits that have been available for less than 365 days remain on the card and will be expunged in future months if the inactivity continues.

As part of the 2018 Farm Bill, the federal government has instructed states to adjust the FoodShare benefit expungement period to 9 months (274 days) instead of 12 months (365 days).

POLICY

Beginning September 17, 2023, unused benefit issuances that have been available to a cardholder for a period of at least 9 months (274 days) will be expunged if the card has not been used for a period of 9 months (274 days).

Approximately 40 days before September 17, 2023, all cardholders with any amount of benefits at risk of being expunged on or soon after the date that the policy becomes effective will be sent a one-time letter that notifies them of the new policy and explains what actions they can take to prevent any of their benefits from being expunged.

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

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