



Date: October 23, 2023

DMS Operations Memo 23-38

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

FoodShare Work Requirement Time Limit Suspension for High Unemployment Areas

CROSS REFERENCE

- FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 3.17.1 FoodShare Work Requirements for ABAWDs](#)
- Operations Memo, [23-20 “Reinstatement of FoodShare Work Requirement”](#)
- Process Help, [Chapter 71 Application of ABAWD Policy](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

October 1, 2023

PURPOSE

This operations memo announces the suspension of the FoodShare work requirement time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) who live in geographic areas experiencing unemployment at higher rates than the national average.

BACKGROUND

Federal law states that FoodShare members who are ABAWDs must meet a work requirement to maintain FoodShare eligibility. FoodShare members that must meet the FoodShare work requirement can only receive FoodShare benefits for three months in the three-year FoodShare clock period if they are not meeting the FoodShare work requirement. This policy is called the FoodShare Work

Requirement Time Limit. Additional Wisconsin ABAWD policy details are available in the [FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, Section 3.17.1 FoodShare Work Requirements for ABAWDs](#).

Federal regulations allow states, with approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), to suspend the time limit of the FoodShare work requirement for FoodShare members who live in areas where the unemployment rate is higher than the national average.

POLICY

Effective October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, FoodShare members that live in the following geographic areas will have the FoodShare work requirement time limit suspended due to unemployment rates higher than the national average:

- Cities of Milwaukee and Racine.
- Menominee, Forest, Iron, and Adams counties.
- Members who live on tribal lands and reservations belonging to: Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Sokaogon Chippewa Community Mole Lake Band, and Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians.
- Members who live on tribal lands and reservations belonging to Oneida Nation and Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians will also have the time limit of the FoodShare work requirement suspended through use of additional federal flexibilities.

Members living in any of the above geographic areas who are ABAWDs will not lose FoodShare eligibility if they do not meet the FoodShare work requirement during this period.

All FoodShare applicants and members aged 18 to 52, including those living in a qualifying geographic area, must continue to be screened for qualifying exemptions from the FoodShare work requirement at application and renewal.

Members who must meet the FoodShare work requirement, but who do not live in any of the above geographic areas, will be subject to the FoodShare work requirement time limit policy. See [Operations Memo 23-20, "Reinstatement of FoodShare Work Requirement"](#) for more information on the recent work requirement time limit reinstatement.

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEEP/LW

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