

FoodShare Work Registration Enhancements

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Income Maintenance Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting



FoodShare Work Registration Enhancements

Agenda

- Why focus on work registration?
- General FoodShare work registration requirements
- Work registration exemptions
- Sanctions
- FoodShare benefits after a sanction ends
- CARES Worker Web (CWW) background
- Worker training and implementation

Why focus on work registration?

Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) conducted an on-site management evaluation which produced the following findings and required actions:

- Eligibility workers are not consistently notifying work registrants of rights and responsibilities
- Eligibility workers are not able to tell from CARES which household members are work registered
- FNS issued a corrective action to address these concerns

Why focus on work registration?

DHS response: work registration enhancements

- Enhanced application and interview process
- Systematic update to identify all work registrants and accurately impose sanctions
- Additional training

General FoodShare Work Registration Requirements

FoodShare applicants and members ages 16-59 must register for work at application or renewal and every 12 months after initial registration unless they are exempt.

Registration for work is completed when the agency receives one of the following:

- A signed Request for Assistance (RFA) after client registration in CWW is completed
- A signed page 1 application registration form (F-16019A)
- A completed, signed FoodShare Wisconsin application form (F-16019B)
- An ACCESS application containing an electronic signature
- A signed signature page from the CARES case summary
- A completed telephonic signature

Work Registration Exemptions

The following FoodShare members are exempt from the work registration requirement:

- A person 16-17 years of age who is not the primary person in a household.
- A person 16-17 years of age who is the primary person in a household but who is enrolled in school or in an employment and training program on at least a half-time basis.
- A person determined unfit for employment, which includes someone who meets any of the following:
 - Receiving temporary or permanent disability benefits from the government or a private source.
 - Mentally or physically unable to work, as determined by the IM agency.
 - Verified as unable to work by a statement from a health care professional or a social worker.
- A person participating in and complying with the Wisconsin Works (W-2) work requirement.

Work Registration Exemptions (Continued)

- A parent or other household member who is the primary caretaker of a child under age 6 living in the home or out of the home. If two people are exercising parental control of a child, only one of those people can be the exempt caretaker.
- A parent or other household member who is the primary caretaker of an incapacitated individual living in the home or out of the home.
- A person who has applied for or is receiving unemployment compensation.
- A person enrolled in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program.
- An employed or self-employed person working 30 or more hours or earning wages equivalent to 30 hours per week at the federal minimum wage.
- A person who is enrolled at least half time in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.
- A person receiving transitional FoodShare benefits.

General FoodShare Work Registration Requirements

Work Registrants must not:

- Turn down “suitable” employment
- Quit a job where they are working 30 or more hours per week (or a job with earnings equivalent to 30 hours or more per week at federal minimum wage)
- Voluntarily reduce hours worked to under 30 per week
- Receive W-3 and fail to meet the W-2 work requirement
- Apply for or receive unemployment and fail to meet the unemployment work requirement

Sanctions

Non-compliance with the work registration requirement results in sanction from receiving FoodShare benefits. Sanctions will be applied in days or calendar months for the following periods:

Sanction Occurrence	Time Period for Sanctions Applied at the Time of Application (days)	Time Period for Sanctions Applied to Ongoing Cases (benefit month/s)
1st	30 days	1 month
2nd	90 days	3 months
3rd and subsequent	180 days	6 months

Sanctions

A sanction will end if:

- The member begins working 30 or more hours per week,
- The member regains eligibility for W-2 by meeting the W-2 work requirements,
- The member regains eligibility for the unemployment benefit by meeting the unemployment benefit work requirements,
- The member has good cause,
- The member becomes exempt from the work registration requirement, or
- The sanction period ends.

FoodShare Benefits after Sanction Ends

- Open Food Unit: Re-request FoodShare and will be added the first of the month following the month of re-request
- Closed Food Unit or One-Person Case: Complete a new application

CWW Enhancements

Work registrant status will be determined systematically at FoodShare application or renewal.

The status will also be determined when a Loss of Employment page is created on or after September 24, 2016.

Training and Implementation

- **Work Registration Course**
 - The ABAWD Changes and FSET Tool Training will be modified to include Work Registration policies.
 - The searchable course will be available September 12 on the DHS Learning Center for new and ongoing workers, and will be embedded within the FoodShare Module in the New Worker Training Curriculum on October 3.
- **Work Registration Demos**
 - Provided through Adobe Connect sessions.
 - Recording published in DHS Learning Center

Training and Implementation

- Operations Memo: Late August, early September
- Implementation Date: September 24, 2016