



The Work Requirement for Adults Ages 18 Through 49

What is the work requirement for adults ages 18 through 49?

It is a federal requirement that some FoodShare members need to meet in order to keep getting FoodShare benefits. It applies to adults ages 18 through 49 who do not have any children under age 18 living in their home and who do not have an exemption.

How can I meet the work requirement?

There are three ways to meet the work requirement:

1. Work at least 80 hours each month.
2. Take part in an allowable work program at least 80 hours each month, such as:
 - FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET).
 - Wisconsin Works (W-2).
 - Certain programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
3. Both work and take part in an allowable work program for a combined total of at least 80 hours each month.

If I am an adult who needs to meet the work requirement, when do I need to start meeting it?

You need to start meeting the work requirement in the first full month of getting FoodShare benefits. When a FoodShare application is approved, anyone on the application who needs to meet the work requirement is referred to the FSET program.

Which adults ages 18 through 49 are exempt from the work requirement?

You may be exempt and may not need to meet the work requirement if any of the following is true:

- You are living with a child under age 18 who is part of the same FoodShare household.

- You are the primary caretaker for a person who cannot care for himself or herself.
- You are the primary caretaker for a dependent child under age 6.
- You are physically or mentally unable to work. This includes being homeless long term. Being homeless long term means you will not have a regular place to stay for the next 30 nights.
- You are pregnant.
- You are receiving or have applied for unemployment insurance.
- You are taking part in an alcohol or other drug abuse (AODA) treatment or rehabilitation program.
- You are enrolled in an institution of higher learning at least half-time.
- You are age 18 or older attending high school at least half-time.
- You are enrolled in W-2 and complying with W-2 requirements.
- You are working 30 or more hours per week or are earning wages equal to 30 or more hours per week at the federal minimum wage.
- You are living in an area with high unemployment that is exempt, or are a tribal member living on tribal land or a reservation that has high unemployment and is exempt. For a list of these high unemployment areas that are exempt, go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/fset/exemptions.htm.

Note: You may need to provide proof that you have an exemption.

What if I do not meet the work requirement?

If you need to meet the work requirement and do not meet it, you may be limited to three months of FoodShare benefits in a 36-month (three-year) period. To keep getting FoodShare benefits after the three months, you must meet the work

requirement, have an exemption, or wait until your 36-month period has passed.

How do I get help meeting the work requirement?

You will be referred to the FSET program when you renew or apply for FoodShare benefits if you need to meet the work requirement and are not already working or participating in a work program for at least 80 hours each month, or a combination of both.

FSET can help you meet the work requirement. FSET offers free services to help you build job skills and find employment.

For more information on FoodShare or the FSET program:

- Go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/index.htm.
- Contact your local agency.

To find your agency, go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/resources.htm, see page 2 of this fact sheet, or call Member Services at 800-362-3002 (TTY and translation services are available).



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1. **mail:**
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
1320 Braddock Place, Room 334
Alexandria, VA 22314; or
2. **fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov

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