



The Work Requirement for Adults Ages 18 through 49

What has changed?

On April 1, 2015, FoodShare program rules changed across the state. If you are age 18 through 49 and do not have any children under age 18 living in your home, you may need to meet a work requirement to keep getting FoodShare benefits, unless you meet 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 Investment Act (WIA).
3. Both work and take part in an allowable work program for a combined total of at least 80 hours each month.

When did the work requirement go into effect?

The work requirement went into effect on April 1, 2015, and is applied when a current FoodShare member completes a renewal application or when an individual completes a new FoodShare application.

Note: Completing a FoodShare and/or Child Care Six Month Report form (F-16076) is not considered a renewal.

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

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

- You are living with a child under age 18, who is part of the same FoodShare household.
- You are the primary caregiver for a person who cannot care for himself or herself.
- You are the primary caregiver for a dependent child under age 6.
- You are physically or mentally unable to work.
- 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 program.
- You are enrolled in an institution of higher learning at least half-time.
- You are a high school student age 18 or older, attending high school at least half-time.

Note: You may need to provide proof that you meet 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 only get 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, become exempt, 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 dhs.wi.gov/foodshare or
- Contact your local agency.

To find your agency go to dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/customerhelp/index.htm, see page 3 of this fact sheet, or call Member Services at 1-800-362-3002 (TTY and translation services are available).

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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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Agency Contact Information

Bay Lake: 1-888-794-5747

Brown, Door, Marinette, Oconto and Shawano Counties

Capital: 1-888-794-5556

Adams, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Juneau, Richland and Sauk Counties

East Central Income Maintenance (IM)

Partnership: 1-888-256-4563

Calumet, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marquette, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago Counties

Great Rivers: 1-888-283-0012

Barron, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix and Washburn Counties

IM Central: 1-888- 445-1621

Langlade, Marathon, Oneida and Portage Counties

Milwaukee County (MiES): 1-888-947-6583

Milwaukee County

Moraine Lakes: 1-888-446-1239

Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Washington, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties

Northern IM: 1-888-794-5722

Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Iron, Lincoln, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas and Wood Counties

Southern: 1-888-794-5780

Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette and Rock Counties

WKRP: 1-888-794-5820

Kenosha and Racine Counties

Western Region for Economic Assistance:

1-888-627-0430

Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties

Tribal IM Agencies:

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians: 715-682-7127

Forest County Potawatomi Community: 715-478-7292

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin: 715-634-8934

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians: 715-588-9635

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin: 715-799-5137

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin: 1-800-216-3216

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa: 715-779-3706

Sokaogon Chippewa Community: 715-478-3265

Stockbridge-Munsee Community: 715-793-4885



Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
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