

FoodShare Basic Work Rules and FoodShare Work Requirements Script for IM Workers

Introduction

Now, I will review the FoodShare basic work rules and the FoodShare work requirement that [names of individuals in the household who are subject to FoodShare basic work rules and FoodShare work requirement] may need to follow to keep FoodShare benefits.

Work Registrants

Requirements

First, I will review the **FoodShare basic work rules**.

[Names of household members who are subject to FoodShare basic work rules] [need/needs] to follow these four basic work rules:

- Accept any reasonable job offer.
- If [you/they] have a job working 30 or more hours each week, or a job earning **\$217.50** or more each week, don't quit or choose to work less than 30 hours each week.
- Tell us about [your/their] job and how much [you/they] are working.
- Keep meeting the unemployment work requirement or Wisconsin Works participation requirement if [you/they] are in these programs.

If [you/they] don't follow the basic work rules, [you/they] may lose FoodShare benefits unless [you/they] have a good cause.

Exemptions

People in your household may be exempt and not have to follow the basic work rules for reasons like:

- They care for a child under 6 or someone who needs help caring for themselves,
- They are not working because of a physical or mental health reason,
- They are going to school or a training program at least half time, or
- They are participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program.

More examples are listed on the DHS FoodShare website. Let us know as soon as possible if you think you [or someone in your household] are exempt and don't need to follow these rules. You can tell me now or call us at [phone number].

Consequences

You could stop getting FoodShare benefits if [names of members who are subject to FoodShare basic work rules] [doesn't/don't] follow the basic work rules, unless [you/they] have a good cause:

- The first time [you/they] don't follow the rules, [you/they] can't get benefits for 1 month.
- The second time, [you/they] can't get benefits for 3 months.
- The third time and any time after, [you/they] can't get benefits for 6 months.

Good Cause

If [you/they] have a good cause for not following the basic work rules, [you/they] can keep getting benefits.

Good cause is a reason for not working that you can't control, like getting sick, not having childcare for a child under 12, or facing unreasonable working conditions. These are some examples, but not all of them.

If you think you [or someone in your household] [have/has] a **good cause**, you can tell me now or call us as soon as you can.

Do you have any questions now about the basic work rules?

Foodshare Work Requirement – No Waiver

Requirements

[Names of members subject to FoodShare work requirement] [has/have] to meet both the FoodShare basic work rules and the FoodShare work requirement because [you/they] are age 18 to 49, able to work, and do not have a child in your household.

To meet the FoodShare work requirement [you/they] must—

- Work, participate in a work program, or volunteer for at least 80 hours each month, or
- Work and participate in an allowable work program for a combined total of at least 80 hours each month.

Examples of allowable work programs include the FoodShare Employment and Training program or programs offered through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

If [you/they] have been working more than 80 hours a month and [your/their] hours drop below 80 a month, you need to call us at [phone number] to tell us about the change by the 10th day of the next month.

Consequences and How to Regain Benefits

If [names of members subject to FoodShare work requirement] [doesn't/don't] meet the work requirement, [you/they] can only get benefits for three total months in a three-year period.

Once we count **3 full months of not meeting the work requirement**, [you/they] **will lose your benefits**. **The current 3-year period goes from [January 1, 2022], until [December 31, 2024]**. [You/they] can also get benefits again during this time if [you/they] start meeting the work requirement, or [you/they] have an exemption.

Exemptions

People in your household may not have to meet the work requirement if [you/they] have any of the exemptions we talked about earlier, or if [you/they] are pregnant, or can't work because of a physical or mental health reason. This includes being homeless for 30 or more days.

Let us know as soon as possible if you think one of these exemptions describes you [or someone in your household]. You can tell me now or call us.

Good Cause

If we determine that there is a good cause for not meeting the work requirement, [you/they] can keep getting benefits.

Good cause is a reason for not working that people can't control that we talked about earlier.

You can tell me now or call us as soon as you can if you think you [or someone in your household] [have/has] a **good cause** for not meeting the work requirement.

FSET

A person who needs to meet the work requirement may get a phone call and letter to enroll in the FoodShare Employment and Training program, also known as FSET.

- FSET is free and helps people meet the work requirement. FSET participants have access to education, training, help with barriers to work, and work experience.
- If FSET activities have costs, we can help pay for things like gas, childcare, books, uniforms and much more so that [you/they] can participate.

Do you have any questions now about the work requirement?

FoodShare Work Requirement – Waiver

Requirements

[Names of household member subject to FoodShare work requirement and geographic waiver] [has/have] to meet both the FoodShare basic work rules and the FoodShare work requirement because [you/they] are age 18 to 49, able to work, and do not have a child in your household.

Normally, if you need to meet the work requirement and do not meet it, you may only get three months of FoodShare benefits in a three-year period. **However, because you live in an area that has a high unemployment rate, the time limit of the work requirement is waived.** This waiver means that the time limit is temporarily suspended.

When this temporary suspension ends, the FoodShare work requirement time limit will once again apply to [Names of household member subject to FoodShare work requirement and geographic waiver].

To meet the FoodShare work requirement [you/they] must—

- Work, participate in a work program, or volunteer for at least 80 hours each month, or
- Work and participate in an allowable work program for a combined total of at least 80 hours each month.

If [you/they] have been working more than 80 hours a month and [your/their] hours drop below 80 hours a month, you need to call us at [phone number] to tell us about the change by the 10th day of the next month.

Consequences, Good Cause, and Regaining Benefits

When the time limit is no longer waived in the area where you live, [names of members subject to FoodShare work requirement and geographic waiver] can only get benefits for three total months in a three-year period unless they meet the FoodShare work requirement.

When the time limit is back in place, once we count **3 full months** of not meeting the work requirement, [you/they] **will lose benefits until the three-year clock ends**, unless [you/they] have a good cause for not meeting the work requirement. The current three-year period goes from [January 1, 2022] until [December 31, 2024]. [You/they] can also get benefits again during this time if [you/they] start meeting the work requirement or have an exemption.

Exemptions

People in your household may not have to meet the work requirement if [you/they] have any of the exemptions we talked about earlier, or if [you/they] are pregnant, or can't work because of a physical or mental health reason. This includes being homeless for 30 or more days.

Let us know as soon as possible if you think one of these exemptions describes you [or someone in your household]. You can tell me now or call us.

FSET

A person who needs to meet the work requirement may get a phone call and letter to enroll in the FoodShare Employment and Training program, also known as FSET.

- FSET is free and helps people meet the work requirement. FSET participants have access to education, training, help with barriers to work, and work experience.
- If FSET activities have costs, we can help pay for things like gas, childcare, books, uniforms and much more so that [you/they] can participate.

Remember [you/they] do not need to meet the work requirement right now because the time limit is temporarily suspended.

If there is a change in what you need to do in order to keep getting benefits, we will send you letters telling you this. Do you have any questions now about the work requirement?