

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
1 W. Wilson St.
Madison WI 53703

To: FoodShare Wisconsin Employment and Training (FSET) Handbook Users

From: Angela Dombrowicki, Director
Bureau of Enrollment Management

Re: **FSET Handbook Release 09-03**

Release Date: 09/24/09
Effective Date: 09/24/09

EFFECTIVE DATE

The following policy additions or changes are effective 09/24/09, unless otherwise noted. **Bold text denotes new text. Text with a strike through it in the old policy section denotes deleted text.**

POLICY CLARIFICATIONS

4 FSET Participation Process > 4.4 FSET Referral Process

New Text:
Effective 07/24/09

Examples were updated to include the new minimum wage of \$7.25.

4 FSET Participation Process > 4.24 Determining Participation Hours

New Text:

Section 4108 of the 2008 Farm Bill states that FSET volunteers are not subject to the 120 hour-a-month participation limit or the requirement that the number of hours of participation can not exceed the household's FS allotment divided by the minimum wage.

The provision expands FSET eligibility to individuals who work part-time or full-time. The policy allows an FS recipient to receive employment and training services to increase opportunities for job security, career enhancement and/or advancement.

FSET agencies are required to work with the volunteer to establish reasonable expectations and hours of participation. Volunteers must put forth an effort to participate in FSET activities for at least 12 hours/week for 2 consecutive months.

5 Noncompliance Procedures > 5.1 General Information

New Text:

At application and review, the IM **agency** must inform **eligible adult FS participants** of FSET services offered in their county either verbally or with **an** FSET Fact sheet or other agency generated pamphlets and refer any household member who wishes to voluntarily enroll in the program to the FSET agency.

5 Noncompliance Procedures > 5.2 Non-Compliance Procedures

New Text:

Good Cause for Non-participation in FSET;
FSET Sanctions;
Length of Sanctions;
Procedure for Sanctioning;

Re-establishing Eligibility during a Pending Sanction period;
Regaining Eligibility after a period of sanction;
~~Voluntary Job Quits; Voluntary Quit Policy;~~
Exceptions;
~~Good Cause for voluntary Quits;~~
~~Verification for Good Cause;~~
Government Employees;
~~VQT Sanction;(loss of eligibility) Time Frames;~~
~~CARES Process;~~
Entering VQT in CARES;
Individual Closure reason Code;
~~Procedures for Issuing the VQT sanction Letter;~~
~~Re-Establishing Eligibility During a VQT sanction Pending Period;~~
Regaining Eligibility During a VQT;
Regaining Eligibility after a VQT.

**6 ABAWDS > 6.1 ABAWD
Temporary Waiver**

Sections 6.2 – 6.12 were removed and section 6.1 was updated.

New Text:

The State of Wisconsin has received a waiver from Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) of federal regulations requiring time-limited FS benefit eligibility for ABAWDs who fail to meet minimum FS work participation requirement. The waiver was approved due to increasing unemployment rates over the past two federal fiscal years in many areas of Wisconsin where the majority of ABAWD FS recipients reside.

In order to provide adequate data to FNS, it will be necessary to continue to ensure that ABAWD status for recipients is recorded correctly on screen ABAWD. However, it will no longer be necessary for eligibility workers to administer ABAWD “strikes” to individuals who are not meeting ABAWD participation requirements.

Note: Although ABAWD requirements no longer apply during the waiver period, ABAWD FS recipients may be voluntary participants in the FSET Program.. However, ABAWD time-limited participation requirements no longer need to be assigned or monitored and ABAWD strikes must no longer be imposed.

Any ABAWD strikes that have been imposed may be deleted at any time. If an ABAWD who has received 3 strikes reapplies for FS benefits, all ABAWD strikes must be deleted and the individual must be allowed to participate in FS Program if all other eligibility requirements are met. Any individual in an open FS case who has been removed from the FS assistance group due to time-limited benefit ABAWD requirements must be given the opportunity to participate in the program. ABAWDs who have been denied FS due to exhausting their time-limited benefits must have their eligibility for FS re-determined at application, re-certification, or at the time of re-request of eligibility.

**8 FSET Component
Definitions > FSET 8.45
Work Experience (NON
ABAWDs)/Workfare
(ABAWDs) (WX)**

New Text:

Effective 07/24/09

Examples were updated to include the new minimum wage of \$7.25.