



Date: November 7, 2024

DMS Operations Memo 24-30

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff

Affected Programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus | <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FoodShare | <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare | |

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Bureau of Enrollment & Eligibility Policy
Division of Medicaid Services

FoodShare Eligibility for Citizens of Compacts of Free Association (COFA) Countries

CROSS REFERENCE

- BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, [Section 4.1.2 Compact of Free Association States](#)
- Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, [Section 7.1.3 Compact of Free Association States](#)
- FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 3.12.1.1 Qualified Immigrant or Immigration Status](#) and [Section 6.1.3.5 Person Add Following a Sanction \(Re-request\)](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

November 7, 2024

PURPOSE

This operations memo announces changes in federal law granting FoodShare eligibility to citizens of Compacts of Free Association (COFA) countries.

BACKGROUND

On March 9, 2024, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (CAA) was signed into law. Through this act, Pacific Islanders from the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia (who are known as Compacts of Free Association, or COFA, citizens) living in the United States became eligible for FoodShare. Congress also waived the five-year waiting period for eligible COFA citizens.

POLICY

COFA citizens are not subject to a waiting period and are immediately eligible for benefits if they meet all other FoodShare financial and non-financial eligibility requirements. The immigration status of COFA citizens must be verified through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program.

COFA citizens who applied and were denied for FoodShare prior to issuance of this guidance may reapply for FoodShare. They must be determined eligible from the date of reapplication if they are otherwise eligible. In addition, those individuals who applied and were denied may request a fair hearing within 90 days of the date of denial. If the fair hearing official determines the household was eligible for FoodShare at the time of application, the COFA citizen will receive retroactive benefits from the date of application.

If an otherwise eligible COFA citizen is part of a household already receiving FoodShare, their eligibility must be redetermined using FoodShare policy 6.1.3.5 Person Add Following a Sanction (Request).

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEEP/MA

DHS/DMS/BEOT/