



Date: November 19, 2024

DMS Operations Memo 24-33

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

Affected Programs:

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

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Division of Medicaid Services

Update to Good Cause Policy for Not Meeting FoodShare Work Requirement

CROSS REFERENCE

- FoodShare Wisconsin Policy Handbook, [Section 3.17.1 FoodShare Work Requirements for ABAWDs](#) and [Section 3.17.1.5 Good Cause for the FoodShare Work Requirement](#)
- FSET Policy Handbook, [Section 6.6 Good Cause](#)
- [Operations Memo 23-19 Good Cause Hours for Not Meeting the FoodShare Work Requirement](#)
- Process Help, [Chapter 71 Application of ABAWD Policy](#)
- 7 CFR § [273.24\(b\)\(2\)](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

October 1, 2024

PURPOSE

This operations memo announces the removal of the 40-hour limit for good cause hours for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) who do not meet the FoodShare work requirement during Time Limited Benefit (TLB) months.

BACKGROUND

Federal law states that FoodShare members who are ABAWDs must meet a work requirement to maintain FoodShare eligibility. FoodShare members who must meet the FoodShare work requirement can only receive FoodShare benefits for three months in the three-year FoodShare clock period if they

are not meeting the FoodShare work requirement. These three months are referred to as Time-Limited Benefit (TLB) months.

In situations where applicants or members do not meet the work requirement for circumstances beyond their control, Income Maintenance (IM) and FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) agencies can apply good cause hours.

Good cause may be granted for circumstances beyond the member's control that resulted in the member missing work or work activity hours. Granting good cause hours may allow an ABAWD to maintain FoodShare eligibility if they are temporarily unable to meet the work requirement. Under current policy, IM and FSET workers can apply up to a combined total of 40 good cause hours toward a member's TLB month. If the member meets the work requirement, with the addition of the 40 good cause hours, the member's TLB month is removed and not counted against their three-month limit.

Based on a change in federal guidance, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is removing the 40-hour limit on good cause hours for a given TLB month.

Additional Wisconsin ABAWD policy details, including examples of circumstances that may be considered for good cause, are available in the FoodShare Wisconsin Policy Handbook, [Section 3.17.1 FoodShare Work Requirements for ABAWDs](#).

POLICY

Effective October 1, 2024, for TLB months of October and later, FoodShare and FSET Policy will no longer restrict the number of good cause hours that can be granted by IM and FSET workers to 40 hours per month. IM and FSET workers can grant good cause hours toward an applicant or member's TLB month to cover the entirety of the work or work activity hours missed due to the circumstances beyond their control. If the applicant or member meets the work requirement with the addition of the good cause hours, the member's TLB month is removed and not counted against their three-month limit.

When making decisions about granting good cause hours, workers must continue to consider all facts and circumstances and seek additional information from other sources for clarification, as needed. Verification of good cause hours may be requested if it is questionable.

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEEP/LW

DHS/DMS/BEOT