

Work Registration and ABAWDs

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Objectives

Upon completion of this session participants will be able to

- Differentiate between Work Registrants and ABAWDs
- Evaluate how these federally-mandated requirements could affect your agency's clients
- Explain activities clients can do to retain their benefits
- Encourage clients to take advantage of work opportunities, E&T training opportunities and Workfare opportunities.

Work Registrant

General SNAP Work Requirements (WAC 388-444-0005, 388-444-0065)

Activities that meet the Work Requirements

- Register for work (completed at interview)
- Accept “suitable employment” if offered
- Do not voluntarily quit a job of 30 or more hours per week or earning \$935.25/month without “good cause”
- Do not voluntarily reduce work effort to less than 30 hours per week or below \$935.25/month without “good cause”

Work Registrant

General SNAP Work Requirements (WAC 388-444-0010)

Exempt from Work Registration and Requirements

- Under the age of 16 or over the age of 60
- Disabled (ABD, SSI, SSDI, 100% Vet Disability, L&I)
- Complying with the work requirements of another program (UC, WorkFirst TANF, RCA, etc.)
- Responsible for a child under the age of six
- Earning more than 30 hours/week x federal minimum wage (\$7.25/hr) = \$935.25/month*
- Participating in a drug or alcohol rehab program
- Students enrolled at least half time

Work Registrant

	General SNAP Work Requirements (WAC 388-444-0055)
The penalty for failure to comply with the requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st time: 1 month• 2nd time: 3 months• 3rd time: 6 months

Are you an ABAWD or non-ABAWD?

- 1) Are you exempt from Work Registration?
- 2) Is there a minor (0-17 y/o) in your assistance unit?
- 3) Are you 16-17 y/o and the head of household?
- 4) Are you 50-59 y/o?

If “no” to all of these questions, you are an ABAWD.

ABAWD

Additional ABAWD Requirements (WAC 388-444-0030)

**Activities that
meet the
Requirements
are:**

- Work 20 or more hours per week
- Participate in a state approved E&T program 20 or more hours per week
- Participate in Workfare (unpaid volunteer at approved Workfare site)
- You may combine work with E&T or work with Workfare



State Approved E&T opportunities include:

- Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET)
- Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) pilot (King or Pierce counties)
- Programs included in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- AmeriCorps
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pathway
- Refugee with Special Employment Needs (RSEN) project
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

ABAWD

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**ABAWD Participation Exemptions
(WAC 388-444-0035)**

**ABAWD
Requirements
do NOT apply
to those who
are:**

- Pregnant
- Live in an “Exempt Area”
- Physically or mentally unable to work 20 hours per week (chronic homelessness w/ an additional barrier, temporary incapacity, veteran w/ 1% or more disability benefits, applying for ABD/HEN)

ABAWD

Additional ABAWD Requirements (WAC 388-444-0030 and 0035)

Failure to comply with the requirements

- Eligible for 3 “non-qualifying” months of SNAP benefits
- After those 3 months, ineligible for SNAP for the remainder of a 36-month period (January 2021) unless you regain eligibility

How do I regain eligibility?

- **Work and/or participate in E&T program 80 hours or more during the 30 day period prior to re-applying**
- **Meet workfare requirements during the 30 day period before re-applying**
- **Combine employment and workfare**
- **Meet an exemption that you previously didn't qualify for**

What Can Providers Do

“Save my benefits!”

ABAWD clients must meet participation to keep their benefits.

They may come to you to help them “save” their benefits.

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ABLE BODIED ADULT WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD)
Basic Food Eligibility Requirements:
What You Need to Know to Keep Your Benefits

Your benefits are time limited if you are not working.

Because you are able to work and have no children in your household, you are considered an Able Bodied Adult without Dependents (ABAWD) for Basic Food.

ABAWDs can only receive Basic Food benefits for three months out of every 36 months without meeting work requirements. Your benefits will close after three months if you do not meet the work requirements described below.

How to keep your basic food benefits

To keep your benefits for more than three months, you must do one or a combination of the following activities:

- Complete up to 16 hours of unpaid work in the community through Workfare each month. Your monthly benefits determine the number of hours you must work to keep your food benefits.
- Work at least 20 hours a week or 80 hours a month on average.
- Participate in a state approved employment or training program such as
 - Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET). For information about BFET, go to www.dshs.wa.gov/bfet.
 - Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) pilot (King or Pierce counties).
 - Programs included in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
 - AmeriCorps VISTA
 - Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pathway
 - Refugee with Special Employment Needs (RSEN) project

Things you must report to DSHS

You must tell DSHS if:

- You have an illness, physical condition, or mental condition that prevents you from working 20 hours a week.
- You work but your hours at work drop below 20 hours a week.
- Your household's income goes over the limit in WAC 388-478-0060.

More information about the ABAWD requirements can be found at www.dshs.wa.gov/abawd.

Call DSHS at 877-501-2233 if you have questions, need assistance, or need to report changes.

You can also visit DSHS at www.washingtonconnection.org to apply for benefits, submit a review, or report changes.

Questions?

