

COVID-19 Related Changes

to Work Requirements for Food Assistance

WHAT IS CHANGING?

DSHS will temporarily remove participation requirements for Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependent (ABAWD) clients due to COVID-19 related restrictions. **ABAWD clients whose cases closed for not meeting work requirements may reapply for food assistance again.**



WHAT ARE ABAWD PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS?

DSHS work registration rules require clients who are ABAWDs to work, look for work or participate in work-related activities for at least 80 hours per month or volunteer for a set number of hours a month to continue receiving food assistance. Usually, under these rules an ABAWD may only receive three months of food assistance in a 36-month period without participating before benefits are closed.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES STILL AVAILABLE

Employment and training services are available virtually to assist ABAWDs in finding work, gaining skills and accessing additional resources for employment. Call us at 877-501-2233 for a referral to a local area provider.

WHEN WILL AN ABAWD HAVE TO PARTICIPATE AGAIN?

DSHS will send letters to ABAWDs when they have to meet participation requirements.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

April 2020



Washington State Dept. of Social and Health Services
PO Box 45440
Olympia, WA 98504-5440



How can an ABAWD reapply for food assistance if their case was closed?

ABAWDs can reapply:

1 Online using Washington Connection
at [washingtonconnection.org](http://www.washingtonconnection.org)

2 By phone at **877-501-2233**
between 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

3 OTHER INFORMATION

ABAWD public website:

www.dshs.wa.gov/abawd

COVID-19 resources:

www.coronavirus.wa.gov

To report changes to a Basic Food case:

www.washingtonconnection.org

or call: **877-501-2233**

between 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.