



SNAP WORK REQUIREMENTS FACT SHEET

This fact sheet informs you about a change in the work requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in your area. Starting January 1, 2020, some SNAP recipients must meet additional work requirements to continue to receive SNAP benefits during the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020.

Who has to meet the work requirement?

If you are an adult (ages 18 to 49) with no dependents, you will only receive SNAP benefits for 3 months out of a 36-month period, unless you do one or a combination of the work requirements listed below, or you qualify for an exemption. The 36-month period began January 1, 2018 in DuPage County. It will take effect for SNAP recipients living in Cook County starting January 1, 2020. The work requirement remains in effect January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020.

How can I start meeting the work requirement?

You can meet the work requirement if you:

- Work (paid or unpaid) for 20 hours per week, averaging 80 hours per month.
- Volunteer to participate and comply with one of the following activities provided by the SNAP Employment & Training Program, if available: Basic Education, Vocational Training, Work Experience, Community Work, or Earnfare.
- Do work for an approved workfare program of a local governmental unit for required number of hours per week.
- Do community work at agencies, churches, or other organization in your community for the required number of hours per week.

Do I qualify for an exemption?

SNAP recipients who have to meet the work requirement are limited to 3-months of SNAP benefits out of 36 months, unless working (paid or unpaid) 20 hours per week, averaging 80 hours per month; or an exemption must be met below:

- be under age 18 or 50 years of age or older; or
- physically or mentally unfit for work, or pregnant; or
- residing in a SNAP household where a household member is under 18, even if the household member who is under 18 is not eligible for SNAP; or
- are otherwise exempt under Work Provisions.

If you are working an average of 20 hours per week but miss some work for good cause, you can still be considered as having met the work requirement if it is temporary and you retain your job. Good cause includes circumstances beyond your control, such as illness, a household emergency, or lack of transportation.

Is there any way I can get more SNAP benefits after the 3 months?

Yes, you can regain eligibility by complying with the work requirement in a 30-day period and continuing to meet the work requirement monthly. There is no limit to the number of times you can regain eligibility. You can qualify for a one-time additional 3 months of SNAP benefits, if you lose eligibility after becoming compliant with the work requirement. You can also qualify again, if you become exempt.

What happens if my circumstances change, such as I become unable to work due to illness?

You would no longer have to meet the work requirement. As long as all other eligibility criteria are met, you could receive SNAP benefits. **You must report when your work hours drop below 20 hours per week (averaged to 80 hours monthly) within 10 calendar days of the date you become aware of a change.**

How do I get more information?

The Department of Human Services is here to help you find employment, meet your work requirement, or see if you qualify for an exemption. Please contact your local Family and Community Resource Center to discuss how these changes may affect you and the opportunities available in your area.

You can also send in questions or comments about your case to DHS.FCS.ABAWDs@illinois.gov or call the IDHS Helpline at 800-843-6154/TTY 866-324-5553.