

13.2 GENERAL SNAP WORK REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS

All SNAP recipients are subject to a work requirement, unless exempt. There are 2 separate and distinct policies which define these work requirements and the exemptions from these requirements.

A. SNAP WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-WV WORKS RECIPIENTS

The following work requirements apply to all SNAP recipients who:

- Do not receive and/or are disqualified from WV WORKS; or
- Do not receive WV WORKS, but do receive SNAP benefits in the same SNAP AG with WV WORKS recipients.

NOTE: Applications which qualify for Expedited Service may require special considerations in meeting work requirements. See Section 1.4,O.

NOTE: When an applicant is ineligible until he meets one of the following requirements, this period of ineligibility does not count as a penalty period.

1. Work Requirements

- Registration with BEP. Details are in Section 13.5,A. Failure of an individual to register within the time limits found in Section 13.5,A and each 12 months results in application of a penalty for not meeting the work requirement.

Work Requirements

- Voluntary Quit, including Voluntary Reduction in hours. Details are in Section 13.3. Not having voluntarily quit or reduced hours of employment is an eligibility requirement for non-exempt applicants, as well as a work requirement for non-exempt recipients. The applicant who takes either of these actions without good cause, is ineligible the month of application and 2 calendar months following the month of application or until he reports a change which makes him exempt from the SNAP work requirement, whichever is earlier. This 3-month-ineligibility period is not counted as one of the applicant's SNAP penalties.

Voluntarily quitting employment after becoming a recipient results in application of a SNAP penalty for failure to meet the work requirement. Neither an applicant nor a recipient may be required to return to the same or comparable employment before eligibility is reestablished. Work-requirement eligibility is reestablished at the end of the 3-month ineligibility period for applicants, or at the end of the appropriate penalty period for recipients, unless they report their exempt status earlier.

- Refusal of Employment. Details are in Section 13.5,C. Applicants who refuse an offer of employment are ineligible to be included in the AG until they accept employment, or until they report a change that makes them exempt from the SNAP work requirement, whichever is earlier. Refusal of employment by non-exempt recipients results in application of a penalty for failure to meet the work requirement.
- Providing Information about Employment Status and Job Availability. Details are in Section 13.5,B. Refusal to provide this information to WORKFORCE WV/BEP and SNAP E&T results in ineligibility for the non-exempt individual. The applicant who fails to provide such information is ineligible until the information is provided or he reports a change that makes him exempt. A recipient's failure to supply this information results in application of a penalty for failure to provide information about employment and job availability.

2. Exemptions From SNAP Work Requirements

NOTE: The SNAP work requirements are waived for individuals who complete a joint SNAP/SSI application at the SSA office until SSI eligibility is determined. See Section 1.4,R.

Work Requirements

The following SNAP recipients are exempt from the SNAP work requirements and are not subject to a SNAP penalty for failure to comply.

When any recipient loses eligibility for an exemption, the Worker must determine if the client meets any other exemption criteria prior to imposing a penalty.

NOTE: See the last exemption listed below for recipients of WV WORKS who do not meet any other listed exemption.

- A person under age 16. Those who reach age 16, and lose this exemption, become subject to the SNAP work requirements at the next redetermination, unless exempt for some other reason.
- A person age 16 or 17 who is not the SNAP payee or RAPIDS primary person. Persons who lose this exemption become subject to the SNAP work requirements at the next redetermination, unless exempt for some other reason.

EXAMPLE: An AG consists of two 17 year olds. One is designated as the RAPIDS primary person and SNAP payee and is, therefore, subject to the work requirements, unless another exemption is met. The other AG member is exempt from the work requirements.

- A person age 16 or 17 who is attending school or enrolled in an employment training program on at least a half-time basis. Persons who lose this exemption become subject to the SNAP work requirements at the next redetermination, unless exempt for some other reason.
- A person enrolled at least half-time in any recognized school, recognized training program, or institution of higher education. If enrolled in an institution of higher education, the student must meet one of the exceptions to the restriction on student participation listed in Section 9.1. This exemption continues through normal periods of vacation, unless the person does not intend to register for the next term, excluding summer terms. Any person losing this exemption becomes subject to the SNAP work requirements at the next redetermination, unless exempt for some other reason.
- A person age 60 or over.