

Chapter 388-444 WAC

BASIC FOOD WORK REQUIREMENTS

WAC

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DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER

388-444-0020	When must clients register for work but are not required to participate in the food stamp employment and training program (FS E&T)? [Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.510 and 74.04.050. WSR 00-21-111, § 388-444-0020, filed 10/18/00, effective 11/18/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0020, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.] Repealed by WSR 10-18-048, filed 8/26/10, effective 10/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 U.S.C. 2015 (d)(1); 7 C.F.R. § 273.7.
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WAC 388-444-0005 Am I required to work or look for work in order to be eligible for Basic Food? Some people must register for work to receive Basic Food.

(1) If you receive Basic Food, we register you for work if you are:

- (a) Age sixteen through fifty-nine with dependents;
- (b) Age sixteen or seventeen, not attending secondary school and not the head-of-household;
- (c) Age fifty through fifty-nine with no dependents; or
- (d) Age eighteen through forty-nine, able-bodied and with no dependents as provided in WAC 388-444-0030.

(2) Unless you are exempt from work registration under WAC 388-444-0010, we register you for work:

- (a) When you apply for Basic Food benefits or are added to someone's assistance unit; and
 - (b) Every twelve months thereafter.
- (3) If we register you for work, you must:
- (a) Contact us as required;

(b) Provide information regarding your employment status and availability for work if we ask for it;

(c) Report to an employer if we refer you;

(d) Not voluntarily quit a job or reduce your work effort as defined under WAC 388-444-0065 unless you have good cause under WAC 388-444-0070; and

(e) Accept a bona fide offer of suitable employment. We define unsuitable employment under WAC 388-444-0060.

(4) If we register you for work, you must meet all of the requirements under subsection (3) of this section. If you do not meet these requirements, we disqualify you from receiving benefits as described in WAC 388-444-0055, unless you meet the good cause conditions as defined in WAC 388-444-0050.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 13-21-126, § 388-444-0005, filed 10/22/13, effective 11/22/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 U.S.C. 2015 (d)(1); 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 10-18-048, § 388-444-0005, filed 8/26/10, effective 10/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.04.515, 74.08.-090, 74.08A.903 and Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. WSR 09-04-009, § 388-444-0005, filed 1/22/09, effective 2/22/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 7 C.F.R. 273.7 and 273.25. WSR 07-14-125, § 388-444-0005, filed 7/3/07, effective 8/3/07; WSR 06-24-026, § 388-444-0005, filed 11/29/06, effective 1/1/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0005, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0010 Who is exempt from work registration while receiving Basic Food? If you receive Basic Food, you are exempt from work requirements in chapter 388-444 WAC if you meet any of the following conditions:

(1) You are age sixteen or seventeen, not the head of household, and:

(a) Attend school such as high school or high school equivalency programs; or

(b) Are enrolled at least half time (using the institutions definition) in an employment and training program under:

- (i) The Workforce Investment Act (WIA);
- (ii) Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974; or
- (iii) Another state or local employment and training program.

(2) You are a student age eighteen or older enrolled at least half time as defined by the institution in:

- (a) Any accredited school;
- (b) A training program; or
- (c) An institution of higher education. If you are enrolled in higher education, you must meet the requirements under WAC 388-482-0005 to be eligible for Basic Food benefits.

(3) You are an employed or self-employed person working thirty hours or more per week, or receiving weekly earnings equal to the federal minimum wage multiplied by thirty;

(4) You are complying with the work requirements of an employment and training program under temporary assistance for needy families (TANF);

(5) You receive unemployment compensation (UC) benefits or have an application pending for UC benefits;

(6) You are responsible to care for:

(a) A dependent child under age six; or

(b) Someone who is incapacitated.

(7) We determine that you are physically or mentally unable to work; or

(8) You regularly participate in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090, 74.08A.250, and 2013 c 39. WSR 13-24-043, § 388-444-0010, filed 11/26/13, effective 1/1/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 U.S.C. 2015 (d)(1); 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 10-18-048, § 388-444-0010, filed 8/26/10, effective 10/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0010, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0015 How can the Basic Food employment and training (BF E&T) program help me find work? The Basic Food employment and training (BF E&T) program is the name for Washington's voluntary supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) employment and training program.

(1) If you receive federally funded Basic Food benefits, you may choose to receive services through the BF E&T program in one or more of the following activities, if we currently provide the service in the county where you live:

(a) Job search;

(b) Paid or unpaid work;

(c) Training or work experience;

(d) High school equivalency classes; or

(e) English as a second language (ESL) classes.

(2) If you are eligible to participate in a BF E&T activity, there is no limit to the number of hours you can participate.

(3) If you receive benefits under the state-funded food assistance program (FAP), you are not eligible to participate in BF E&T.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090, 74.08A.250, and 2013 c 39. WSR 13-24-043, § 388-444-0015, filed 11/26/13, effective 1/1/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 U.S.C. 2015 (d)(1); 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 10-18-048, § 388-444-0015, filed 8/26/10, effective 10/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 7 C.F.R. 273.7 and 273.25. WSR 06-24-026, § 388-444-0015, filed 11/29/06, effective 1/1/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050 and 74.04.510. WSR 00-04-006, § 388-444-0015, filed 1/20/00, effective 3/1/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0015, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0025 What expenses will the department pay to help me participate in BF E&T? (1) The department pays certain actual expenses needed for you to participate in the BF E&T program. We will pay for the following expenses:

(a) Transportation related costs; and

(b) Dependent care costs for each dependent through twelve years of age.

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(2) We do not pay your dependent care costs if:

(a) The child is thirteen years of age or older unless they are:

(i) Physically and/or mentally unable to care for themselves; or

(ii) Under court order requiring adult supervision; or

(b) Any member in the food assistance unit provides the dependent care.

(3) We do not use the cost of dependent care the department pays for as an income deduction for your household's dependent care costs under WAC 388-450-0185.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 U.S.C. 2015 (d)(1); 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 10-18-048, § 388-444-0025, filed 8/26/10, effective 10/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, and 74.08.090. WSR 07-21-075, § 388-444-0025, filed 10/16/07, effective 11/16/07; WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0025, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0030 Do I have to work to be eligible for Basic Food benefits if I am an able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD)? (1) An able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) is a person who:

(a) Is physically and mentally able to work;

(b) Is age eighteen through forty-nine; and

(c) Has no child in the household.

(2) If you are an ABAWD, you must participate in employment and training activities under subsection (4) unless you are exempt from ABAWD requirements under WAC 388-444-0035.

(3) Nonexempt ABAWDs who fail to participate may continue to receive food assistance until September 30, 2015.

(4) Beginning October 1, 2015, an ABAWD is not eligible to receive food assistance for more than three full months in a thirty-six month period, except as provided in WAC 388-444-0035, unless that person:

(a) Is exempt from ABAWD requirements under WAC 388-444-0035;

(b) Works at least twenty hours a week averaged monthly;

(c) Participates in on the job training (OJT), which may include paid work and classroom training time, for at least twenty hours a week;

(d) Participates in an unpaid work program as provided in WAC 388-444-0040; or

(e) Participates in and meets the requirements of one of the following work programs:

(i) The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA);

(ii) Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974; or

(iii) A state-approved employment and training program.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090 and 7 C.F.R. 273.24. WSR 14-18-028, § 388-444-0030, filed 8/26/14, effective 9/26/14; WSR 13-17-123, § 388-444-0030, filed 8/21/13, effective 9/21/13; WSR 12-16-025, § 388-444-0030, filed 7/25/12, effective 8/25/12; WSR 11-18-039, § 388-444-0030, filed 8/31/11, effective 10/1/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 C.F.R. §§ 273.7 and 273.24. WSR 10-23-112, § 388-444-0030, filed 11/17/10, effective 12/18/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 74.04.500, 74.08A.120, and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. WSR 10-13-046, § 388-444-0030, filed 6/9/10, effective 7/10/10; WSR 09-14-018, § 388-444-0030, filed 6/22/09, effective 7/23/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0030, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

(8/26/14)

WAC 388-444-0035 Who is exempt from ABAWD work requirements? Some persons receiving Basic Food are exempt from ABAWD work requirements. You are exempt from the ABAWD requirements under WAC 388-444-0030 if you are:

- (1) Under eighteen or fifty years of age or older;
- (2) Determined to be physically or mentally unable to work;
- (3) A member of a household with responsibility for a person who is incapacitated;
- (4) An adult in a household that has a member who is under the age of eighteen, even if the child is not eligible for Basic Food;
- (5) Pregnant;
- (6) Living in an area approved as exempt by U.S. Department of Agriculture;
- (7) Complying with the work requirements of an employment and training program under temporary assistance for needy families (TANF);
- (8) Applying for or receiving unemployment compensation;
- (9) A student enrolled at least half time as defined by the institution in:
 - (a) Any accredited school;
 - (b) Training program; or
 - (c) Institution of higher education. A student enrolled in higher education must meet the requirements under WAC 388-482-0005 in order to be eligible for Basic Food.
- (10) Participating in a chemical dependency treatment and rehabilitation program;
- (11) Employed a minimum of thirty hours per week or receiving weekly earnings which equal the minimum hourly rate multiplied by thirty hours;
- (12) Eligible for one of the annual federal-approved exemption slots under the fifteen percent exemption rule.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 C.F.R. §§ 273.7 and 273.24. WSR 10-23-112, § 388-444-0035, filed 11/17/10, effective 12/18/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050 and 74.04.510. WSR 03-05-031, § 388-444-0035, filed 2/10/03, effective 4/1/03; WSR 00-04-006, § 388-444-0035, filed 1/20/00, effective 3/1/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.510. WSR 99-07-024, § 388-444-0035, filed 3/10/99, effective 4/10/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0035, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0040 Can I volunteer for an unpaid work program in order to meet the work requirements under WAC 388-444-0030? The department makes unpaid work programs available for persons who need to meet work requirements under WAC 388-444-0030.

- (1) The following are considered unpaid work programs:
 - (a) Workfare, which includes:
 - (i) Job search activities during the first thirty days beginning with the day of application, or sixteen hours of volunteer work with a public or private nonprofit agency; and
 - (ii) In subsequent months, sixteen hours per month of volunteer work with a public or private nonprofit agency allows you to remain eligible for Basic Food benefits.
 - (iii) Workfare does not include enforced community service or for paying fines or debts due to legal problems.

(8/26/14)

(b) Work experience (WEX) which provides supervised, unpaid work for at least twenty hours a week. WEX is intended to improve a person's work skills and make them more competitive in the job market. WEX must be for a non-profit organization, government agency, or tribal entity.

(2) We may not **require** you to participate more than one hundred and twenty hours per month in an unpaid-work program, paid work, or a combination of activities. ABAWDs may volunteer to participate in activities beyond one hundred and twenty hours per month.

(3) The department may pay for some of the costs for you to participate in work programs. We set the standards for the amount we will pay for these expenses.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090 and 7 C.F.R. 273.24. WSR 14-18-028, § 388-444-0040, filed 8/26/14, effective 9/26/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 C.F.R. §§ 273.7 and 273.24. WSR 10-23-112, § 388-444-0040, filed 11/17/10, effective 12/18/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.903 and Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. WSR 09-04-009, § 388-444-0040, filed 1/22/09, effective 2/22/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.510. WSR 99-07-024, § 388-444-0040, filed 3/10/99, effective 4/10/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0040, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0045 How does an ABAWD regain eligibility for Basic Food after being closed for the three-month limit? (1) If you have used up your three months of benefits as an able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) under WAC 388-444-0030, you can regain eligibility by:

- (a) Working eighty hours or more during a thirty-day period;
- (b) Participating in and meeting the requirements of a work program for eighty hours or more during a thirty-day period;
- (c) Participating in and meeting the requirements of the community service part of a Workfare program; or
- (d) Meeting any of the work requirements in (a) through (c) of this subsection in the thirty days after the date you have applied for Basic Food.

(2) If you regain eligibility for food assistance under subsection (1) of this section, you are eligible for Basic Food from the date you applied for Basic Food and as long as you continue to meet the requirements of WAC 388-444-0030.

(3) If you meet all other requirements for Basic Food and you have regained eligibility under subsection (1), you may receive an additional three consecutive months of Basic Food benefits when you:

- (a) Lose employment; or
 - (b) Lose the opportunity to participate in a work program.
- (4) We only allow the additional three months of Basic Food under subsection (3) once in each thirty-six month period.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 C.F.R. §§ 273.7 and 273.24. WSR 10-23-112, § 388-444-0045, filed 11/17/10, effective 12/18/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.510. WSR 99-07-024, § 388-444-0045, filed 3/10/99, effective 4/10/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0045, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0050 What is good cause for failing to meet Basic Food work requirements? (1) If we have registered you to work, you may have a good reason (good cause) for refusing or failing to meet work requirements under WAC 388-444-0005.

(2) Good cause reasons include, but are not limited to:

- (a) You were injured or ill;
- (b) A household member who needs your help was injured or ill;
- (c) A household emergency;
- (d) The unavailability of transportation; or
- (e) Lack of adequate dependent care for children six through twelve years of age.

(3) If we determine that you do not have good cause for failing or refusing to meet the work requirements under WAC 388-444-0005, you will be disqualified from receiving Basic Food as described under WAC 388-444-0055.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 U.S.C. 2015 (d)(1); 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 10-18-048, § 388-444-0050, filed 8/26/10, effective 10/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0050, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0055 What are the penalties if I refuse or fail to meet Basic Food work requirements? (1) If we register you for work you must meet the work requirements under WAC 388-444-0005 or 388-444-0030 unless you have good cause as defined in WAC 388-444-0050. If you do not follow these rules, you will become an ineligible assistance unit member as described under WAC 388-408-0035. The remaining members of the assistance unit continue to be eligible for Basic Food.

(2) If you do not meet work requirements and we find that you did not have good cause, you cannot receive Basic Food for the following periods of time and until you meet program requirements:

- (a) For the first failure, one month;
- (b) For the second failure, three months; and
- (c) For the third or subsequent failure, six months.

(3) If you become exempt under WAC 388-444-0010 and are otherwise eligible, you may begin to receive Basic Food.

(4) If you do not comply with the work requirements of the following programs, you cannot receive Basic Food unless you meet one of the conditions described under WAC 388-444-0010 except subsections (4) or (5):

- (a) WorkFirst;
- (b) Unemployment compensation;
- (c) The refugee cash assistance program.

(5) Within ten days after learning of your refusal to participate in your program, the financial worker will send you a notice that your Basic Food benefits will end unless you comply with your program requirements.

(6) If you do not comply within ten days, you will be issued a notice disqualifying you from receiving Basic Food until you comply with your program, or until you meet the work registration disqualification requirements in subsection (2) of this section.

(7) After the penalty period in subsection (2) of this section is over, and you meet work requirements and you are otherwise eligible, you may receive Basic Food:

(a) If you are alone in the assistance unit and apply to reestablish eligibility; or

(b) If you are a member of an assistance unit, you may resume receiving Basic Food.

(8) During the penalty period, if you begin to participate in one of the programs listed in subsection (4)(a) through (c) and that penalty is removed, the work registration disqualification also ends. If you are otherwise eligible, you may begin to receive Basic Food.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 13-21-126, § 388-444-0055, filed 10/22/13, effective 11/22/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 U.S.C. 2015 (d)(1); 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 10-18-048, § 388-444-0055, filed 8/26/10, effective 10/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057. WSR 04-05-010, § 388-444-0055, filed 2/6/04, effective 3/8/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050 and 74.04.510. WSR 00-04-006, § 388-444-0055, filed 1/20/00, effective 3/1/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0055, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0060 What is unsuitable employment for Basic Food work requirements. If we register you for work, you must accept a bona fide offer of suitable employment in order to be eligible for Basic Food. We consider employment unsuitable when:

(1) The wage offered is less than the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is highest;

(2) The job offered is on a piece-rate basis and the average hourly yield expected is less than the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is highest;

(3) The employee, as a condition of employment, must join, resign from, or is barred from joining any legitimate labor union;

(4) The work offered is at a site subject to strike or lock-out at the time of offer unless:

- (a) The strike is enjoined under the Taft-Hartley Act; or
- (b) An injunction is issued under section 10 of the Railway Labor Act.

(5) The employment has an unreasonable degree of risk to health and safety;

(6) You are physically or mentally unable to perform the job as documented by medical evidence or reliable information from other sources;

(7) The employment offered within the first thirty days of Basic Food work registration is not in your major field of experience;

(8) The distance from your home to the job is unreasonable considering the wage, time and cost of commute:

(a) The job is not suitable when daily commuting time exceeds two hours per day, not including transporting a child to and from child care; and

(b) The job is not suitable when the distance to the job prohibits walking and public or private transportation is not available.

(9) The working hours or nature of the job interferes with your religious observances, convictions, or beliefs.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 U.S.C. 2015 (d)(1); 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 10-18-048, § 388-444-0060, filed 8/26/10, effective 10/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0060, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0065 Am I eligible for Basic Food if I quit my job or reduce my work effort? (1) You are not eligible for Basic Food if you voluntarily quit your current job without good cause as defined in WAC 388-444-0070, and:

(a) You were working or self-employed and working thirty hours or more per week or you had weekly earnings at least equal to the federal minimum wage multiplied by thirty hours; and

(b) The quit was within sixty days before you applied for Basic Food or any time after; and

(c) At the time of quit you would have been required to register for work as defined in WAC 388-444-0005.

(2) You are not eligible for Basic Food if you voluntarily reduce your work effort without good cause as defined in WAC 388-444-0070, and:

(a) You were working or self-employed and working thirty hours or more per week or you had weekly earnings at least equal to the federal minimum wage multiplied by thirty hours; and

(b) The reduction was within sixty days before you applied for Basic Food or any time after; and

(c) If after the reduction, you are working less than thirty hours per week or your weekly earnings are not at least equal to the federal minimum wage multiplied by thirty hours; and

(d) At the time of reduction you would have been required to register for work as defined in WAC 388-444-0005.

(3) You are not eligible to receive Basic Food if you have participated in a strike against a federal, state or local government and have lost your employment because of such participation.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 13-21-126, § 388-444-0065, filed 10/22/13, effective 11/22/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 C.F.R. §§ 273.7 and 273.24. WSR 10-23-112, § 388-444-0065, filed 11/17/10, effective 12/18/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050 and 74.04.510. WSR 00-04-006, § 388-444-0065, filed 1/20/00, effective 3/1/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0065, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0070 What is good cause for quitting my job or reducing my work effort? Unless otherwise specified the following rules apply to all persons receiving Basic Food.

(1) You must have a good reason (good cause) for quitting a job or reducing your work effort, as defined in WAC 388-444-0065, or you will be disqualified from receiving Basic Food under WAC 388-444-0075. Good cause includes the following:

(a) Your employment is unsuitable as under WAC 388-444-0060;

(b) You were discriminated against by an employer based on age, race, sex, color, religious belief, national origin, political belief, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or other reasons in RCW 49.60.180;

(c) Work demands or conditions make continued employment unreasonable, such as working without being paid on schedule;

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(d) You accepted other employment or are enrolled at least half time in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education;

(e) You must leave a job because another assistance unit member accepted a job or is enrolled at least half time in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education in another county or similar political subdivision and your assistance unit must move;

(f) You are under age sixty and retire as recognized by your employer;

(g) You accept a bona fide offer of employment of thirty hours or more a week or where the weekly earnings are equivalent to the federal minimum wage multiplied by thirty hours. However, because of circumstances beyond your control, the job either does not materialize or results in employment of less than thirty hours a week or weekly earnings of less than the federal minimum wage multiplied by thirty hours;

(h) You leave a job in connection with patterns of employment where workers frequently move from one employer to another, such as migrant farm labor or construction work; and

(i) Circumstances included under WAC 388-444-0050;

(2) You are eligible for Basic Food after quitting a job or reducing your work effort if the circumstances of the job involve:

(a) Changes in job status resulting from involuntary reduction of employment hours while working for the same employer;

(b) Termination of a self-employment enterprise; or

(c) Resignation from a job at the demand of an employer.

(3) You must provide proof that you had good cause for quitting a job or reducing your work effort. However, we do not deny your application for Basic Food if you are unable to get this proof even with our help.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 13-21-126, § 388-444-0070, filed 10/22/13, effective 11/22/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 C.F.R. §§ 273.7 and 273.24. WSR 10-23-112, § 388-444-0070, filed 11/17/10, effective 12/18/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0070, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-444-0075 What are the penalties if I quit a job or reduce my work effort without good cause? (1) If you have applied for Basic Food and have voluntarily quit a job or reduced your work effort as defined under WAC 388-444-0065 without good cause within sixty days before applying for Basic Food, we deny your application and you must have a penalty period as described under subsection (3) from the date of your application.

(2) If you already receive Basic Food and you quit your job or reduce your work effort without good cause, we send you a letter notifying you that you will be disqualified from Basic Food. The disqualification in subsection (3) of this section begins the first of the month following the notice of adverse action.

(3) You are disqualified for the following minimum periods of time and until the conditions in subsection (4) of this section are met:

(a) For the first quit or reduction of work effort, one month;

(b) For the second quit or reduction of work effort, three months; and

(c) For the third or subsequent quit or reduction of work effort, six months.

(4) You may reestablish eligibility after serving the disqualification period if you comply with the work requirements under WAC 388-444-0005 and are otherwise eligible.

(5) If you become exempt from work registration under WAC 388-444-0010, we end your disqualification for a job quit or reduction of work effort unless you are exempt because you are applying for or receiving unemployment compensation (UC), or participating in an employment and training program under TANF.

(6) If you are disqualified and move from the assistance unit and join another assistance unit, we continue to treat you as an ineligible member of the new assistance unit for the remainder of the disqualification period.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 7 C.F.R. § 273.7. WSR 13-24-056 and 13-21-126, § 388-444-0075, filed 11/26/13 and 10/22/13, effective 12/27/13 and 11/22/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.515, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, 74.08A.903, and 7 C.F.R. §§ 273.7 and 273.24. WSR 10-23-112, § 388-444-0075, filed 11/17/10, effective 12/18/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050 and 74.04.510. WSR 01-05-006, § 388-444-0075, filed 2/7/01, effective 3/1/01; WSR 00-04-006, § 388-444-0075, filed 1/20/00, effective 3/1/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.510. WSR 99-07-024, § 388-444-0075, filed 3/10/99, effective 4/10/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-444-0075, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]