

West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources

IMPORTANT FOOD STAMP INFORMATION FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS

The following eligibility requirements for the **Food Stamp Program** may affect you if you:

- Are at least age 18 and not yet age 50; and
- Do not live with an individual under age 18.

You may receive Food Stamp benefits for no more than 3 months out of 36 months if you are otherwise eligible and you:

- Do not work at least 20 hours per week, averaged monthly; or
- Do not participate in a work program, such as one sponsored by the Workforce Investment Act, for at least 20 hours per week, averaged monthly.

NOTE: This policy does not apply in all counties of West Virginia. Your Worker must tell you if you live in a county with time-limited eligibility. These counties are subject to change.

NOTE: If you reside in a county with time-limited eligibility and meet the above criteria, you must report when your work hours are reduced to less than 20 hours per week, averaged monthly. This applies to households with limited income reporting requirements as well.

If you lose eligibility because of the time limit, one way you can become eligible again is by working 80 hours in a 30-day period or participating in a work program for a month. If you become eligible again, you can continue to receive Food Stamp benefits for as long as you meet all other eligibility requirements, including the work requirements. If you lose your job, you may be eligible to receive Food Stamp benefits for up to an additional 3 consecutive months in the same 36-month period without meeting the work requirement.

You are exempt or become exempt from these requirements and may continue to receive Food Stamp benefits, if otherwise eligible, if one of the following applies to you:

- You live with an individual under age 18, or you become age 50;
- You are responsible for the care of an incapacitated individual, whether or not you live with the individual;
- You have been medically certified as unfit for work or you are pregnant;
- You are receiving Unemployment Compensation and are registered with the Bureau of Employment Programs;
- You are a student enrolled at least half-time in any recognized school, training program or an institution of higher education;
- You are a regular participant in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program;
- You are hired for work of at least 30 hours per week or for work paying the equivalent of at least 30 hours times the minimum wage per week;

If you have any questions, please contact the local office listed on the enclosed notice, or the Customer Service Reporting Center at 1-877-716-1212.