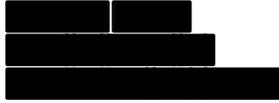




STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of:



DECISION

FWP/169776

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed November 2, 2015, under Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(4), to review a decision by the Milwaukee Enrollment Services ["MiLES"] in regard to FoodShare benefits ["FS"], a Hearing was held via telephone on November 24, 2015.

The issue for determination is whether it was correct to end petitioner's FS effective October 1, 2015.

There appeared at that time via telephone the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:



Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

BY: [Redacted], Income Maintenance ["IM"] Specialist Advanced
Milwaukee Enrollment Services
1220 W Vliet St, Room 106
Milwaukee, WI 53205

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Sean P. Maloney
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Petitioner (CARES # [Redacted]) is a resident of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.
2. Effective with his June 11, 2015 FS renewal petitioner became subject to the Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents ["ABAWD"] FS work requirements. Exhibits #1, #2 & #3.

3. During the months of June 2015, July 2015, and August 2015 petitioner did not meet the ABAWD FS work requirements because, during each of those months, he did not work or participate in an allowable work program for a combined total of at least 80 hours per month. Exhibits #1, #2, #3, #5 & #6.
4. An *About Your Benefits* notice dated September 18, 2015 was sent to petitioner informing him that his FS would end on October 1, 2015 because: “You have used 3 months of time-limited benefits without meeting a work requirement during those 3 months.” Exhibit #6.

DISCUSSION

Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents [“ABAWD”]¹ must either meet the ABAWD work requirement or an exemption from the work requirement in order to continue to receive FS. Non-exempt ABAWDs who do not meet the work requirement will only be allowed to receive up to 3 full months of Time-Limited Benefits [“TLB”] in a 36-month time period.² *FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook* [“FWH”] 3.17.1.1.; See also, Wis. Stat. § 49.79(10)(a) (2013-14); 7 C.F.R. §§ 273.7 & 273.24 (2015).

An FS member is determined an exempt ABAWD if he or she is an ABAWD who meets at least one of the following criteria, as determined by the Income Maintenance [“IM”] agency:

- Determined unfit for employment, which includes someone who is:
 - Receiving temporary or permanent disability benefits from the government or a private source;
 - Mentally or physically unable to work, as determined by the IM agency;
 - Verified as unable to work by a statement from a health care professional or a social worker.
- Receiving Unemployment Compensation [“UC”] or has applied for UC and is complying with UC work requirements;
- Regularly participating in an Alcohol or Other Drug Abuse [“AODA”] treatment or rehabilitation program;
- A student of higher education who is otherwise eligible for FS;
- A high school student 18 years of age or older, attending high school at least half-time;
- Primary caregiver of a dependent child under age 6 or an incapacitated person;
- Receiving transitional FS benefits; or,
- Meeting the ABAWD work requirement outside of the FS Employment and Training program [“FSET”] through work and/or other allowable work program participation.

FWH 3.17.1.5.

An ABAWD is considered to be meeting the ABAWD work requirement if one of the following applies:

¹ An FS applicant or member is determined a **non**-ABAWD if he or she meets any one of the following criteria, as determined by the Income Maintenance [“IM”] agency: under age 18 or age 50 and older; unable to work; residing in a FS household with a child under age 18; or, pregnant. *FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook* [“FWH”] 3.17.1.4.

² ABAWD eligibility for FS is limited to three (3) months of Time-Limited FS Benefits [“TLB”] in a 36-month period in which the ABAWD is subject to, but is not complying with, the ABAWD work requirement and does not have a qualifying exemption. The three TLB months do not have to be consecutive. FWH 3.17.1.9.

1. Working a minimum of 80 hours per month (use converted work hours if paid weekly or bi-weekly);
2. Participating and complying with an allowable work program at least 80 hours per month (allowable work programs include FSET, Refugee Employment and Training, Wisconsin Works ["W-2"], Children First, Workforce Investment Act ["WIA"] programs, Refugee Cash Assistance programs, and programs under section 236 of the Trade Act);
3. Both working and participating in an allowable work program for a combined total of at least 80 hours per month; or,
4. Participating and complying with the requirements of a workfare program.

FWH 3.17.1.8.

Petitioner did not meet the work requirements for 3 months (June 2015, July 2015, and August 2015) and has used-up all of his 3 full months of TLB. It is true that petitioner was employed during those months - - but his employment and other qualifying activities did not amount to the required 80 hours per month. There is no dispute about this. At the November 24th Hearing petitioner suggested that he was medically unable to work and submitted some medical documentation. However, the medical documentation does not show that he is unable to work.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

For the reasons discussed above, it was correct to end petitioner's FS effective October 1, 2015.

THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

That the petition for review herein be and the same is hereby DISMISSED.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

You may request a rehearing if you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law or if you have found new evidence that would change the decision. Your request must be **received within 20 days after the date of this decision**. Late requests cannot be granted.

Send your request for rehearing in writing to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400 **and** to those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your rehearing request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and explain why you did not have it at your first hearing. If your request does not explain these things, it will be denied.

The process for requesting a rehearing may be found at Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

APPEAL TO COURT

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be filed with the Court **and** served either personally or by certified mail on the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, **and** on those identified in this decision as “PARTIES IN INTEREST” **no more than 30 days after the date of this decision** or 30 days after a denial of a timely rehearing (if you request one).

The process for Circuit Court Appeals may be found at Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,
Wisconsin, this 30th day of November, 2015

\sSean P. Maloney
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on November 30, 2015.

Milwaukee Enrollment Services
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability