



# Changes to the Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Rules



**Effective Jan. 1, 2017**, if you reside in PIERCE COUNTY, SNOHOMISH COUNTY or the MUCKLESHOOT RESERVATION you are now exempt from ABAWD work requirements. This is a change from the 2016 rules requiring ABAWDs in King, Snohomish and parts of Pierce County (outside of Lakewood and Tacoma, which were exempt) to work at least 20 hours per week or participate in specific work activities to remain eligible for Basic Food assistance.



Washington State  
Department of Social  
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# What does this mean?

If you live in PIERCE COUNTY, SNOHOMISH COUNTY or on the MUCKLESHOOT RESERVATION, you no longer have to participate in specific work activities to maintain your Basic Food assistance. It is highly encouraged that you remain in these activities to aid in career-building opportunities. Additional education and training services are offered through the Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET) and Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) programs for federal Basic Food beneficiaries.

## Were your food benefits terminated due to work registration rules?

If you were considered an ABAWD and received three consecutive months of Basic Food assistance before they were closed for not participating in specific work activities, you may now reapply for food assistance the following ways:

- 1** Online using Washington Connection at <https://www.washingtonconnection.org>
- 2** Phone by calling the Dept. of Social and Health Services customer service call center at **1-877-501-2233**
- 3** In person by visiting your local Community Services Office. To locate an office, visit [www.dshs.wa.gov](http://www.dshs.wa.gov) and click 'Locate a Service Office'

