

Department of Social and Health Services

Community Services Division

EA-Z Manual

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Category: **Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) Program**
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Summary

Updates to BFET policies regarding transfer degrees now being allowable. Clarified how to tell if a BFET client is participating.

Revised ~~October 29, 2020~~February 25, 2021

Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) Program

WAC 388-444-0015 How can the Basic Food Employment and Training (BF E&T) program help me find work?

Clarifying Information - WAC 388-444-0015

What is BFET?

Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET) assist federally funded Basic Food (SNAP) participants gain skills, training or work experience to increase their ability to attain a living wage career. BFET services are available from all WA State community and technical colleges as well as many community based organization

(CBO) providers including the Employment Security Department (ESD). Additional information on the type of services and benefits is located on [the BFET public website. www.dshs.wa.gov/bfet](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/bfet)

Who can receive BFET services?

Most clients who receive federally funded Basic Food (SNAP) and are at least 16 years old can receive BFET services. Even clients with college education may benefit from retraining or job search services.

How can BFET help pay for college?

BFET students should utilize other forms of funding for tuition whenever possible. Typically all students who attempt to enroll into BFET will be asked by the college to apply for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as part of the enrollment process for BFET.

Who can't receive BFET services?

Clients receiving the following programs:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
- State Food Assistance Program (FAP);
- LEP Pathway;
- Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA); or
- Career Ladder for Educated and vocationally Experienced Refugees (CLEVER)

~~Transfer degrees or~~ BA educational degrees are **not eligible** through the BFET program so clients seeking these degrees should not be referred to BFET.

Do clients have to participate in BFET?

No. BFET is voluntary and intended to focus resources on the most motivated individuals. Services are available for exempt and non-exempt clients who are eligible for federal SNAP benefits living in Washington.

NOTE:

There are clients called Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) who do have additional work requirements in order to stay eligible for Basic Food benefits. BFET is an option to fulfill this requirement, but is not mandatory. To learn more about ABAWDs please see www.dshs.wa.gov/abawd

How does a student become eligible for Basic Food through BFET?

If a client appears to be an ineligible student, give the client basic information about BFET to help decide if they could become eligible for Basic Food. Refer to [WAC 388-482-0005](#) for student eligibility. BFET recipients who are college students are typically eligible students (pending other Basic Food eligibility factors).

How do I find a list of current BFET providers?

See our [public web site](#) for a list of BFET Partner Colleges and the counties in which they offer services.

BFET Processes and Procedures

How does a Basic Food client receive BFET services?

DSHS staff may provide the client with information about BFET as well as contact information for CBOs and Colleges. You can find a list of current BFET Providers on BFET Brochures, in the Barcode BFET Referral tool, or the [BFET public website](#).

If the perspective individual is SNAP eligible the BFET Provider will complete an intake to determine appropriate BFET services. The BFET Provider will open components for eligible clients in eJAS.

If the perspective individual is enrolling in a **BFET college program** and appears eligible for BFET, but is not yet on SNAP, then the college will complete the 10-501 Referral Form to be submitted to DSHS. This form tells DSHS the client will be accepted into BFET upon approval of SNAP benefits, so the client should be considered an eligible student. The college will open the BFET components in eJAS after SNAP is approved.

If client was closed for ABAWD requirements they must meet requalifying requirements as outlined in ABAWD participating in BFET. <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/basic-food-work-requirements/abawds-able-bodied-adults-without-dependents>.

How do I know a client is participating in the BFET program?

Review the information in the client's electronic case record.

Review the client's case in eJAS. The BFET program uses the FI component to distinguish BFET participants from WorkFirst. Components are open based on the actual activity of the client, for example, JS (supervised job search), VE (vocational education) or BR (job retention). Components reflect the scheduled hours per week for each activity and dates of participation.

Verification of participation from BFET provider. This can be a verbal verification or a provider document.

How do I know that a client is a current BFET recipient?

There are two ways to check if a client is participating in BFET:

The first way is to review the information in the client's electronic case record. The second way is to view the client's case in eJAS. BFET clients have open components in eJAS. The BFET program uses the FI component to distinguish BFET participants from WorkFirst.

Providers record clients' BFET participation in a case management system called eJAS. Activities the client participates in are called **components**.

Additional components are opened based on the actual activity of the client, for example, JS (supervised job search), VE (vocational education) or BR (job retention). Components reflect the scheduled hours per week for each activity and dates of participation.

ACES Procedures

Work Registration

- Interview - (WORK) Work Registration / Participation Screen
- Basic Food - Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)