

UNPAID WORK (VOLUNTEERING) - SNAP

Unpaid work (volunteering) includes in-kind work or unpaid work as a volunteer at a state, local, religious or community nonprofit organization.

Volunteering can also occur within the community. Volunteer activities must:

- Be optional
- Be supervised work to help people gain valuable work experience
- Meet work requirements for people designated able-bodied adults without dependents
- Not be used to meet court-appointed or legal obligations

Unpaid work is counted “hour for hour.” Those hours can be combined with other activities (except Workfare) to meet the 80-hour requirement.

Example

John is designated as a non-exempt ABAWD working 15 hours per week. John needs an additional 5 hours per week, or 20 hours per month, to meet his work requirements.

John often uses the local food bank. He has told its workers about his need to find more activities to meet his work requirements. The food bank workers tell him that they have volunteer opportunities. John begins volunteering there for five hours each week.

These hours coupled with his employment allow John to meet his work requirements.

Important Notes about Unpaid work:

- Can be combined with other activities to meet the 80-hour requirement
- Does not require department referral

WORKFARE - SNAP

Workfare is unpaid work performed by a person designated as an ABAWD for a public or private nonprofit organization that has a valid contract for such services with DSHS.

Workfare is available **ONLY** to people designated as non-exempt ABAWDS.

Workfare is a stand-alone activity that cannot be combined with another activity. Customers must be referred to that site before their participation hours will count and should [contact DSHS](#) for such a referral.

Participation hours are based on the household’s food benefit allotment divided by the [state or local minimum wage](#) as listed on the Department of Labor and Industries site.

Example

John needs to meet his work requirements (80 hours/month). After talking with an eligibility worker, he decides he’d like a referral to a Workfare site while he considers other options.

John lives in Seattle, and his monthly benefit amount is \$200. Seattle’s minimum wage is \$21.30: $\$200 \div \$21.30 = 9.38$

John must volunteer at the Workfare site for nine hours (rounded down) per month.

Important Notes about Workfare:

- Could reduce required hours
- Requires DSHS referral
- Is a stand-alone activity and **cannot** be combined with other activities

Availability is dependent on provider capacity.