



# **SNAP Requirement to Register for Work with Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC)**

**February 2014**

**Presented by Allison Shortess  
SNAP Director**



# What is SNAP?

SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program.

SNAP provides the ability for low-income households to buy the food they need for good health.



# Work Registration Requirements

All SNAP applicants/recipients 16 - 59, who are not exempt, are considered Mandatory Work Registrants (MWRs) & are required to:

- Register for work at application & every 12 months thereafter,
- Participate in E&T programs (LaJET where available, STEP, & UCB) and
- Comply with all other work registration (WR) requirements.



# Register For Work

- MWRs have always been required to register for work at application and recerification. However, the definition of what it means to register for work has changed.
- The purpose of registering for work with LWC is for SNAP recipients to be able to search for employment.



# Work Registration (WR) Exemptions

- Persons under age 16 or age 60 or older.
- Persons age 16 or 17 attending school, or enrolled in an employment-training program on at least a half-time basis, or not the head of the household.
- Persons age 18 – 59 enrolled at least half-time in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.



# Work Registration (WR) Exemptions

- Parents or other HH members personally providing the care of a:
  - dependent child under age 6 or
  - disabled person of any age. Verify if questionable.
- Regular participants in drug or alcohol treatment & rehabilitation programs.
- Persons who are temporarily or permanently disabled (physically or mentally).



# Work Registration (WR) Exemptions

- Persons working an average of 30 hours per week or receiving average weekly gross earnings equivalent to 30 multiplied by the federal minimum wage.
- Migrant & seasonal farm workers under contract or similar agreement with an employer or crew chief to begin work within 30 days.
- Persons subject to and complying with STEP or have met the minimum WR requirement through STEP within the past 12 months.
- Persons receiving UCB.



# New Requirements





# Mandatory Work Registrants (MWRs)

- All MWRs must register for work with Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) by creating or having an active Helping Individuals Reach Employment (HiRE) account and maintaining an active registration within their HiRE account.
  - If the work registration is inactive, the applicant/recipient must reactivate the work registration to meet the requirement of registering for work with LWC.



# Mandatory Work Registrants (MWRs)

- All MWRs must register for work with LWC at application and recertification for:
  - SNAP apps with an application date of 1/21/14 or later,
  - All recertifications due February 2014 or later,
  - Apps that are pended in the 2nd 30 days, and
  - Recertifications pended within 30 days after closure, if the application date is 1/21/14
  - or later.



# Mandatory Work Registrants (MWRs)

- If a new household member, who is a MWR, is added as an interim change or at Simplified Report (SR), the appropriate work registration code must be entered on LAMI for the MWR. The new member is not required to register for work with LWC until the next recertification.



# SNAP 4RW

- Provide The Work Registration Requirement with Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) (SNAP 4RW) flyer to the MWR.
  - This flyer provides information to household that contain a MWR about the requirement to register for work and the penalties for failure to register for work.



# Failure to Register Without Good Cause

- Results in a Work Registration (WR) sanction
  - Disqualification period is the same as all other WR sanctions.
- If the MWR who failed to register for work is:
  - the HoH, the entire HH will be ineligible for SNAP benefits.
    - After certification/recertification the WR sanction must be applied and the case closed.
  - a HH member, that member will not be eligible for SNAP benefits.
    - After certification/recertification the WR sanction must be applied and the member disqualified.



# How to Register with LWC

- Registration for work with LWC must either be completed online at [www.louisianaworks.net](http://www.louisianaworks.net) or at the local LWC Business and Career Solutions Center.

(Addresses can be found at [www.laworks.net/ServiceLocator.asp](http://www.laworks.net/ServiceLocator.asp).)

- The LWC link will also be added to the Kiosks in the DCFS parish offices.
- When registering for work with LWC, the MWR must click on the 'Register for your HiRE account' link and complete the registration process.



# MWRs in LaJET Parish

- MWRs who live in a LaJET parish and have a recent connection to the work force must still be referred to and comply with LaJET.
- They are not exempt from registering with LWC at application and recertification.



# LaJET Parishes

Caddo

Lafayette

Orleans (Algiers and Midtown)

Ouachita

Rapides





# LaJET Referrals

- **A recent connection to the workforce is defined by having wage information displayed in the FA Web System Clearance Summary in the LWC Wage panel.**
  - These individuals have earned at least \$500 in at least one quarter
- **Exception: If a manual clearance is run & there are earnings of at least \$500 in any quarter shown on the LDET Wage Information Screen, this is considered a recent connection to the workforce.**



# LaJET Components

- Job Training with Employer Contacts
  - Consists of 30 hours a week of classroom training for two weeks and at least 12 job contacts.
- Job Search Training with Employer Contacts
  - Consists of 24 job contacts.
  - Individuals who participated in Job Training the previous year would be placed in this component.
- WIA Participation



# Application/ Recertification



# Worker Responsibilities

- Determine which HH members are MWRs.
- Check LWC before the interview to determine if any member of the HH has an active work registration in their HiRE account.



# Worker Responsibilities

- If any member is not registered for work with LWC, also review the website:
  - after all required verification is received, and
  - before processing the application/recertification.
- Advise the applicant/recipient during the interview that registering for work with LWC must be completed to be eligible for SNAP. The purpose of registering from work is to be able to search for employment.



# Worker Responsibilities

- Explain that if the MWR already has a HiRE account that the work registration must be active. An active work registration terminates after 90 days of inactivity. Searching for a job will ensure that the work registration remains active.
- Explain that failure to comply will result in sanctions.



# Work Registration Penalties

- Mandatory work registrants are ineligible if they fail to meet WR requirements set forth in Chapter 4, B-1410-SNAP.
- Length of disqualification:
  - 1st violation = the individual will be ineligible for 3 months or until he complies, whichever is later.
  - 2nd and subsequent violations = the individual will be ineligible for six months or until he complies, whichever is later.
- If the individual who does not comply is the head of the household, the entire household is ineligible for the duration of the individual's disqualification.
- If the MWR becomes exempt anytime after non-compliance, the disqualification ends.



# Ending Disqualification

- The disqualification may be ended when the worker determines or is notified by the household that the MWR has complied.
- The disqualification ends when:
  - The mandatory 3 or 6 month disqualification period has been served and the non-compliant member has complied (See *section B-1453-SNAP of B-1450-SNAP*).
  - OR
  - The recipient becomes exempt at any point after non-compliance from WR requirements according to B-1420-SNAP.





# Household Member

It is the responsibility of the HH to report that the MWR has registered with LWC if they register for work after the WR sanction has been imposed so that the member can be added upon expiration of the disqualification period.



# Questions????

