An Introduction to the DHS FoodShare Team

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Agenda

- Who we are
- What we do
- FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET)
- FoodShare outreach
Who We Are

Seven permanent positions and two limited term employment (LTE) positions

- 3.5 full-time positions focused on FoodShare policy
- 2.5 full-time and 2 LTE positions focused on FSET policy
What We Do

- Ensure DHS policy complies with state and federal guidance.
- Maintain FoodShare and FSET handbooks.
- Participate in or lead eligibility system updates.
- Administer FSET and FoodShare outreach contracts, including budget oversight and contract monitoring.
From Legislative Action

- Federal rule changes
- New state laws
- Changes within other programs administered by income maintenance (IM)
To Policy Enactment

- Part of the Bureau of Enrollment Policy and Systems (BEPS), which oversees policy implementation
- Partner with other areas of BEPS
- Write options papers regarding key decisions
- Implement explicitly prescribed policies
FSET Program
FSET Purpose

- Provide opportunities to gain skills, training, and experience needed to improve employment prospects.
- Provide comprehensive, individualized services that will result in successful competitive employment.
- Help participants meet the FoodShare work requirement.
Wisconsin’s ABAWD Work Requirement

- Wisconsin operates a voluntary FSET program.
- ABAWDs can choose to participate in FSET to meet the work requirement.
- The ABAWD work requirement limits FoodShare eligibility to 3 months in a 36-month period unless an individual is working or participating in an allowable work program at least 20 hours per week.
- There are also exemptions from the work requirement.
FSET Vendors

FSET Region  Vendor
1, 2, 3     ResCare
4, 5        Forward Services Corporation
6           Wood County Human Services
7, 8        Workforce Resource
9           Workforce Connections
10          Dane County Human Services
11          Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board
FSET Activities

- Job search assistance
- Education
- Job-related training
- Work experience
Available Services

- Transportation assistance
- Clothing for job interviews
- Uniforms
- Textbooks, test fees, training materials
Wisconsin provides job retention services for 90-days after individuals obtain a job in FSET.

Job retention services include supportive services and case management to assist individuals in transitioning to employment.
Expanding Partnerships

- FSET agencies may partner with local organizations to expand training opportunities and serve more FoodShare members.
- Local funding may be used to draw down 50% matching federal funds.
- These partnerships can be established with community-based organizations, education providers, and employers.
FoodShare Outreach

Connecting Wisconsinites to FoodShare
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach

- State SNAP agencies have the option to conduct program informational activities to inform households about the availability, eligibility requirements, application procedures, and benefits of SNAP.

- States may receive 50% reimbursement for allowable administrative costs funded under a state outreach plan.
Under the federal fiscal year 2018 FoodShare Outreach State Plan, vendors provide:

- In-person assistance in 32 counties.
- The Statewide FoodShare Helpline.
Role of Outreach

FoodShare outreach agencies provide:

- Information about eligibility requirements and benefits.
- Assistance with applications, renewals, and verification.
- Assistance with QUEST cards.
- Information about policy changes.
Best Practices

- Recruit volunteers and/or staff with economic support experience.
- Establish partnerships with IM agencies that allow new outreach workers to observe workers and use CARES Worker Web-based training regarding ACCESS.
Best Practices

- Build rapport with different communities through trusted community partners.
- Resolve conflicts with IM through local area administration.
How to Become Involved

- Become a subcontractor with a current outreach vendor.
- Initiate an outreach contract in an unserved area (January–March each year).
- There is an additional need for outreach assistance in northern/rural Wisconsin.
Thank You for Attending!

- For additional information about FoodShare, visit [https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/index.htm](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/index.htm).
- To learn more about the FSET program, visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/fset.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/fset.htm).
- Contact Margaret Rosenthal at [margaret.rosenthal@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:margaret.rosenthal@dhs.wisconsin.gov) if your organization is interested in becoming a partner for the FSET program.
Questions