

2SHB 1603 - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 04/15/2019

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 74.08.025 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 42 s 7 are each  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (1) Public assistance may be awarded to any applicant:

6 (a) Who is in need and otherwise meets the eligibility  
7 requirements of department assistance programs; and

8 (b) Who has not made a voluntary assignment of property or cash  
9 for the purpose of qualifying for an assistance grant; and

10 (c) Who is not an inmate of a public institution except as a  
11 patient in a medical institution or except as an inmate in a public  
12 institution who could qualify for federal aid assistance: PROVIDED,  
13 That the assistance paid by the department to recipients in nursing  
14 homes, or receiving nursing home care, may cover the cost of clothing  
15 and incidentals and general maintenance exclusive of medical care and  
16 health services. The department may pay a grant to cover the cost of  
17 clothing and personal incidentals in public or private medical  
18 institutions and institutions for tuberculosis. The department shall  
19 allow recipients in nursing homes to retain, in addition to the grant  
20 to cover the cost of clothing and incidentals, wages received for  
21 work as a part of a training or rehabilitative program designed to  
22 prepare the recipient for less restrictive placement to the extent  
23 permitted under Title XIX of the federal social security act.

24 (2) ~~((Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for  
25 needy families under this title who has resided in the state of  
26 Washington for fewer than twelve consecutive months immediately  
27 preceding application for assistance is limited to the benefit level  
28 in the state in which the person resided immediately before  
29 Washington, using the eligibility rules and other definitions  
30 established under this chapter, that was obtainable on the date of  
31 application in Washington state, if the benefit level of the prior~~

1 ~~state is lower than the level provided to similarly situated~~  
2 ~~applicants in Washington state. The benefit level under this~~  
3 ~~subsection shall be in effect for the first twelve months a recipient~~  
4 ~~is on temporary assistance for needy families in Washington state.~~

5 ~~(3))~~ Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for  
6 needy families who is assessed through the state alcohol and  
7 substance abuse program as drug or alcohol-dependent and requiring  
8 treatment to become employable shall be required by the department to  
9 participate in a drug or alcohol treatment program as a condition of  
10 benefit receipt.

11 ~~((4) The department may implement a permanent disqualification~~  
12 ~~for adults who have been terminated due to WorkFirst noncompliance~~  
13 ~~sanction three or more times since March 1, 2007. A household that~~  
14 ~~includes an adult who has been permanently disqualified from~~  
15 ~~receiving temporary assistance for needy families shall be ineligible~~  
16 ~~for further temporary assistance for needy families assistance.~~

17 ~~(5))~~ (3) Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 862a(d)(1), the department shall  
18 exempt individuals from the eligibility restrictions of 21 U.S.C.  
19 862a(a)(1) and (2) to ensure eligibility for temporary assistance for  
20 needy families benefits and federal food assistance.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.010 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 42 s 6 are each  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (1) A family that includes an adult who has received temporary  
24 assistance for needy families for sixty months after July 27, 1997,  
25 shall be ineligible for further temporary assistance for needy  
26 families assistance.

27 (2) For the purposes of applying the rules of this section, the  
28 department shall count any month in which an adult family member  
29 received a temporary assistance for needy families cash assistance  
30 grant unless the assistance was provided when the adult family member  
31 was a minor child and not the head of the household or married to the  
32 head of the household.

33 (3) The department shall adopt regulations to apply the sixty-  
34 month time limit to households in which a parent is in the home and  
35 ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families. Any  
36 regulations shall be consistent with federal funding requirements.

37 (4) The department shall refer recipients who require specialized  
38 assistance to appropriate department programs, crime victims'

1 programs through the department of commerce, or the crime victims'  
2 compensation program of the department of labor and industries.

3 (5) (a) The department (~~(may)~~) shall add to adopted rules related  
4 to temporary assistance for needy families time limit extensions, the  
5 following criteria by which the department shall exempt a recipient  
6 and the recipient's family from the application of subsection (1) of  
7 this section:

8 (i) By reason of hardship (~~(or)~~), including if the recipient is a  
9 homeless person as described in RCW 43.185C.010; or

10 (ii) If the family includes an individual who meets the family  
11 violence options of section 402(A)(7) of Title IVA of the federal  
12 social security act as amended by P.L. 104-193.

13 (b) Policies related to circumstances under which a recipient  
14 will be exempted from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of  
15 this section shall treat adults receiving benefits on their own  
16 behalf, and parents receiving benefits on behalf of their child  
17 similarly, unless required otherwise under federal law.

18 (6) The department shall not exempt a recipient and his or her  
19 family from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of this section  
20 until after the recipient has received fifty-two months of assistance  
21 under this chapter.

22 (7) (~~(Beginning on October 31, 2005,)~~) The department shall  
23 provide transitional food (~~(stamp)~~) assistance for a period of five  
24 months to a household that ceases to receive temporary assistance for  
25 needy families assistance and is not in sanction status. If  
26 necessary, the department shall extend the household's basic food  
27 (~~(stamp)~~) certification until the end of the transition period.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.08A.410 and 1997 c 58 s 702 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The WorkFirst program shall develop outcome measures for use  
31 in evaluating the WorkFirst program authorized in chapter 58, Laws of  
32 1997, which may include but are not limited to:

33 (a) Caseload reduction, including data for participants who exit:  
34 (i) Due to increased income; (ii) to employment; (iii) at the  
35 participant's request; or (iv) for other reasons;

36 (b) Recidivism to caseload after two years;

37 (c) Employment;

38 (d) Job retention;

39 (~~(d)~~) (e) Earnings;

1        ~~((e))~~ (f) Wage progression;  
2        (g) Reduction in average grant through increased recipient  
3 earnings; ~~(and~~  
4 ~~(f))~~ (h) Placement of recipients into private sector,  
5 unsubsidized jobs; and  
6 (i) Outcomes for sanctioned and time-limited families.

7        (2) The department shall require that contractors for WorkFirst  
8 services collect outcome measure information and report outcome  
9 measures to the department regularly. The department shall develop  
10 benchmarks that compare outcome measure information from all  
11 contractors to provide a clear indication of the most effective  
12 contractors. Benchmark information shall be published quarterly and  
13 provided to the legislature, the governor, the legislative-executive  
14 WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force, and all contractors  
15 for WorkFirst services.

16        **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.08A.411 and 2009 c 85 s 3 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18        The department shall continue to implement WorkFirst program  
19 improvements that are designed to achieve progress against outcome  
20 measures specified in RCW 74.08A.410. Outcome data regarding job  
21 retention and wage progression shall be reported quarterly to the  
22 appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the legislature and to  
23 the legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task  
24 force for families who leave assistance for any reason, measured  
25 after twelve months, twenty-four months, and thirty-six months. The  
26 department shall also report the percentage of families who have  
27 returned to temporary assistance for needy families after twelve  
28 months, twenty-four months, and thirty-six months. The department  
29 shall make every effort to maximize vocational training, as allowed  
30 by federal and state requirements.

31        **Sec. 5.** RCW 74.08A.250 and 2017 c 156 s 1 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33        Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this  
34 chapter, "work activity" means:

- 35        (1) Unsubsidized paid employment in the private or public sector;  
36        (2) Subsidized paid employment in the private or public sector,  
37 including employment through the state or federal work-study program  
38 for a period not to exceed twenty-four months;

- 1 (3) Work experience, including:
- 2 (a) An internship or practicum, that is paid or unpaid and is  
3 required to complete a course of vocational training or to obtain a  
4 license or certificate in a high-demand occupation, as determined by  
5 the employment security department. No internship or practicum shall  
6 exceed twelve months; or
- 7 (b) Work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted  
8 housing, if sufficient paid employment is not available;
- 9 (4) On-the-job training;
- 10 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;
- 11 (6) Community service programs, including a recipient's voluntary  
12 service at a child care or preschool facility licensed under chapter  
13 (~~43.215~~) 43.216 RCW or an elementary school in which his or her  
14 child is enrolled;
- 15 (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed twelve months  
16 with respect to any individual except that this twelve-month limit  
17 may be increased to twenty-four months subject to funding  
18 appropriated specifically for this purpose;
- 19 (8) Job skills training directly related to employment;
- 20 (9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a  
21 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a high school  
22 equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536;
- 23 (10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course  
24 of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate as provided  
25 in RCW 28B.50.536, in the case of a recipient who has not completed  
26 secondary school or received such a certificate;
- 27 (11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is  
28 participating in a community service program;
- 29 (12) Internships, that shall be paid or unpaid work experience  
30 performed by an intern in a business, industry, or government or  
31 nongovernmental agency setting;
- 32 (13) Practicums, which include any educational program in which a  
33 student is working under the close supervision of a professional in  
34 an agency, clinic, or other professional practice setting for  
35 purposes of advancing their skills and knowledge;
- 36 (14) Services required by the recipient under RCW  
37 74.08.025(~~(+3)~~) (2) and 74.08A.010(4) to become employable;
- 38 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in  
39 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially  
40 stable; and

1 (16) Parent education services or programs that support  
2 development of appropriate parenting skills, life skills, and  
3 employment-related competencies.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act applies prospectively only and  
5 not retroactively. Prospective application of this act allows  
6 families who have been previously permanently disqualified under  
7 prior policies to receive benefits prospectively only, if otherwise  
8 eligible.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
10 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
11 provided by June 30, 2019, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
12 act is null and void."

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13 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "participation;" strike the  
14 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 74.08.025,  
15 74.08A.010, 74.08A.410, 74.08A.411, and 74.08A.250; and creating new  
16 sections."

EFFECT: Modifies the hardship exemption from the lifetime limit  
to include those who are homeless, rather than those who are homeless  
or at substantial risk of losing stable housing or housing support  
services.

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