



RULE-MAKING ORDER EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

CR-103E (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.350 and 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: June 26, 2024

TIME: 12:01 PM

WSR 24-14-046

Agency: Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) 7/1/2024

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes
- No
- If Yes, explain:

Purpose: The department is adopting emergency amendments to WAC 388-310-0800, "WorkFirst – Support Services." Effective July 1, 2024, these amendments will restore WorkFirst support services to address housing and utility needs for participants. Funding for these services is supported within the WorkFirst Spending Plan for state fiscal year 2025.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New: None
 Repealed: None
 Amended: WAC 388-310-0800
 Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, and 74.08A.250

Other authority: ESSB 5950 (Chapter 376, Laws of 2024)

EMERGENCY RULE

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding: The 2024 supplemental operating budget and the WorkFirst Spending Plan provided a reinvestment of support services funds to be allocated towards housing and utility needs of WorkFirst participants. The department is concurrently proceeding with the permanent rule making process. Refer to CR-101 filed as WSR 24-09-048.

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____

The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____

The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____

The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____
Pilot rule making:	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____
Other alternative rule making:	New	____	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	____

Date Adopted: June 25, 2024	Signature: 
Name: Katherine I. Vasquez	
Title: DSHS Rules Coordinator	

WAC 388-310-0800 WorkFirst—Support services. (1) Who can get support services?

People who can get support services include:

- (a) WorkFirst participants who receive a TANF cash grant;
- (b) Sanctioned WorkFirst participants during the required participation before the sanction is lifted or applicants who were terminated while in noncompliance sanction who are doing activities required to reopen cash assistance (WAC 388-310-1600);
- (c) TANF/SFA applicants as needed to meet the WorkFirst orientation requirements under WAC 388-400-0005(2) or 388-400-0010(3);
- (d) Unmarried or pregnant minors who are income eligible to receive TANF and are:
 - (i) Living in a department approved living arrangement (WAC 388-486-0005) and are meeting the school requirements (WAC 388-486-0010); or
 - (ii) Are actively working with a social worker and need support services to remove the barriers that are preventing them from living in a department approved living arrangement or meeting the school requirements.
- (e) American Indians who receive a TANF cash grant and have identified specific needs due to location or employment.
- (f) Former WorkFirst participants who are working at least 15 hours per week or more, for up to three months after leaving TANF if they need employment-related transportation support services to meet a temporary need or emergency.

(2) Why do I receive support services?

Although not an entitlement, you may receive support services for the following reasons:

- (a) To help you participate in work and WorkFirst activities that lead to independence.
- (b) To help you to participate in job search, accept a job, keep working, advance in your job, or increase your wages.
- (c) You can also get help in paying your child care expenses through the working connections child care assistance program. (Chapter 110-15 WAC describes the rules for this child care assistance program.)

(3) What type of support services may I receive and what limits apply?

There is a limit of \$5,000 per person per program year (July 1st to June 30th) for WorkFirst support services you may receive.

The chart below shows the types of support services that are available for the different activities (as indicated by an "x") and the restrictions that apply.

Definitions:

- Work-related activities include looking for work or participating in workplace activities, such as community jobs or a work experience position.
- Safety-related activities include meeting significant or emergency family safety needs, such as dealing with family violence.
- Some support services are available if you need them for other required activities in your IRP.

Type of Support Service	Restrictions	• Work	•• Safety	••• Other
Reasonable accommodation for employment		x		
Clothing/uniforms		x		
Diapers		x	x	x
Haircut		x		
Lunch	Same rate as established by OFM for state employees	x		
Personal hygiene		x	x	x
Professional, trade, association, union, and bonds		x		x
Relocation related to employment or safety (can include rent, housing, and deposits)		x	x	
Short-term lodging and meals in connection with job interviews/tests	Same rate as established by OFM for state employees	x		
Tools/equipment		x	x	x
Car repair needed to restore car to operable condition		x	x	x
License/fees		x	x	x
Mileage reimbursement	Same rate as established by OFM for state employees	x	x	x
Transportation allotment, including fuel support		x	x	x
Counseling		x	x	x
Educational expenses		x	x	x
Medical exams (not covered by medicaid)		x	x	x
Public transportation		x	x	x
Testing-diagnostic		x	x	x
Housing and utilities	Funding allocated for ((07/01/2022)) 07/01/2024 - ((06/30/2023)) 06/30/2025 only	x	x	x

(4) **What are the other requirements to receive support services?**

Other restrictions on receiving support services are determined by the department or its agents. They will consider whether:

- (a) It is within available funds; and
- (b) It does not assist, promote, or deter religious activity; and
- (c) There is no other way to meet the cost.

(5) **What happens to my support services if I do not participate as required?**

The department will give you 10 days notice, following the rules in WAC 388-310-1600, then discontinue your support services until you participate as required.