

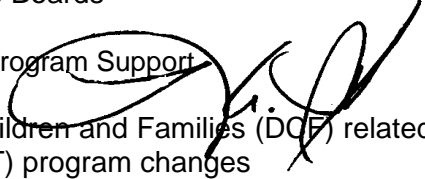


Date of Issue: August 18, 2009
Office of Issue: AWI – 09-17
Reference: DCF

AWI Communiqué

DATE: August 17, 2009

TO: Workforce Florida, Inc. and Regional Workforce Boards

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, One-Stop and Program Support 

SUBJECT: Information distributed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) related to Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) program changes

PURPOSE:

To provide the Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs) with information distributed by the DCF related to changes to the FSET program

BACKGROUND:

Prior to July 1, 2009, food stamp recipients who met the criteria of Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents, or ABAWDs, were required to participate in qualified components for a specific number of hours each month to continue getting food stamps. FSET program participants who did not comply in program requirements risked losing their food stamp benefits. Sanctions were imposed on FSET cases, and FSET program participants who were not compliant had to serve out their penalty period prior to receiving food stamps again unless they met an exemption.

As of July 1, 2009, Florida is operating a volunteer engagement program that serves any food stamp recipient who opts to volunteer based on funding availability. Information was distributed to the RWBs in the form of [Internet-based training](#) and the [FSET State Plan](#), which is now posted to the Internet. Food stamp recipients are not required to participate in “components” or activities to continue receiving food stamps.

The DCF distributed a memorandum to staff about the changes to the FSET program, including how to apply and lift FSET program sanctions imposed prior to July 1, 2009.

AUTHORITY:

N/A

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Information associated with the impact of this change is in the attached document titled, "Communiqué Attachment: Impact of FSET Programmatic Changes."
2. Please share this communiqué and the attachments with the appropriate staff.

ATTACHMENT:

DCF Memorandum No. 1-09-06-0020

Communiqué Attachment: Impact of FSET Programmatic Changes