

TITLE VII
FOOD PROGRAMS
CHAPTER 65
FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

[Prior to 7/1/83, Social Services[770] Ch 65]

[Prior to 2/11/87, Human Services[498]]

PREAMBLE

The basis for the food assistance program is as provided in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The purpose of this chapter is to provide for adoption of new and amended federal regulations as they are published, to establish a legal basis for Iowa's choice of administrative options when administrative options are given to the state in federal regulations, to implement the policy changes that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) directs states to implement that are required by law but are not yet included in federal regulations, and to implement USDA-approved demonstration projects and waivers of federal regulations.

DIVISION I

441—65.1(234) Definitions.

"Department" means the Iowa department of human services.

"Food assistance" means benefits provided by the federal program administered through Title 7, Chapter II of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 270 through 283.

"Notice of expiration" means either a message printed on an application for continued program participation, Review/Recertification Eligibility Document (RRED), Form 470-2881, which is automatically issued to the household, or a hand-issued Form 470-0325, Notice of Expiration.

"Parent" means natural, legal, or stepmother or stepfather.

"Sibling" means biological, legal, step-, half-, or adoptive brother or sister.

441—65.2(234) Application.

65.2(1) Application filing. Persons in need of food assistance benefits may file an application at any local department office in Iowa or over the Internet.

a. An application is filed the day a local department office receives an application for food assistance benefits that contains the applicant's name and address and is signed by either a responsible member of the household or the household's authorized representative. The application may be filed on:

- (1) Form 470-0306 or 470-0307 (Spanish), Application for Food Assistance;
- (2) Form 470-0462 or Form 470-0466 (Spanish), Health and Financial Support Application; or
- (3) Form 470-4080 or 470-4080(S), Electronic Food Assistance Application.

b. When an application is delivered to a closed office, it will be considered received on the first day that is not a weekend or state holiday following the day that the office was last open. An electronic application is considered received on the first department workday following the date the department office received the application.

c. A household shall complete a Health and Financial Support Application when any person in the household is applying for or receiving aid through the family investment program, family medical assistance program (FMAP)-related Medicaid, or the refugee resettlement assistance programs.

d. The application is complete when a completed application form is submitted.

e. Households receiving food assistance benefits in Iowa may apply for continued participation by submitting Form 470-2881, Review/Recertification Eligibility Document.

65.2(2) Failure to provide verification. When a household files an initial application and the department requests additional verification, the applicant shall have ten days to provide the requested verification. If the applicant fails to provide the verification within ten days, the department may deny the application immediately. If the applicant provides the department with the requested verification prior to the thirtieth day from the date of application, the department shall reopen the case and provide benefits from the date of application. If the household provides the verification in the second 30 days

after the date of the application, the department shall reopen the case and provide benefits from the date the verification was provided.

441—65.3(234) Administration of program. The food assistance program shall be administered in accordance with the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq., and in accordance with federal regulation, Title 7, Parts 270 through 283 as amended to June 19, 2006. A copy of the federal law and regulations may be obtained at no more than the actual cost of reproduction by contacting the Division of Financial, Health, and Work Supports, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114, (515)281-3133.

441—65.4(234) Issuance. The department shall issue food assistance benefits by electronic benefits transfer (EBT).

65.4(1) Schedule. Benefits for ongoing certifications shall be made available to households on a staggered basis during the first ten calendar days of each month.

65.4(2) EBT cards. EBT cards shall be mailed to clients.

a. Personal identification number selection. When a client receives the EBT card, the client shall call the automated response unit to select a personal identification number. The client must provide proof of identity before selecting the personal identification number.

b. Replacement of EBT cards. EBT cards shall be replaced within five business days after the client notifies the EBT customer service help desk of the need for replacement.

65.4(3) Client training. Written client training materials may either be mailed to clients or be handed to the clients if they visit the local office. Clients will be given in-person training upon request or if they are identified as having problems using the EBT system.

65.4(4) Point-of-sale terminals. Point-of-sale terminals allow clients to access food assistance benefits and retailers to redeem food sales.

a. Redemption threshold. The department will not place point-of-sale terminals with any authorized retailer with less than \$100 in monthly food assistance redemptions. Those retailers may participate through a manual voucher process described in paragraph 65.4(5) "b."

b. Shipping. Government-supplied point-of-sale terminals may be shipped to authorized retailers along with instructions for installation of the equipment and training materials. A toll-free number is available for retailers needing assistance.

c. Replacement. The department shall ensure that government-supplied point-of-sale terminals that are not operating properly are repaired or replaced within 48 hours.

65.4(5) Voucher processing.

a. Emergency vouchers. Authorized retailers may use an emergency manual voucher if they cannot access the EBT host system.

(1) The client shall sign Form 470-2827, POS Voucher, to authorize a debit of the household's EBT account.

(2) The retailer shall clear the manual transaction as soon as the host system becomes operational.

(3) The retailer shall receive a payment of the actual amount of the voucher, up to a maximum of \$50.

b. Manual vouchers. Authorized retailers without point-of-sale terminals and retailers whose equipment fails may use a manual voucher. If a manual voucher is used:

(1) The client shall sign Form 470-3980, Offline Food Stamp Voucher: Non Equipped Retailer (No POS), to authorize a debit of the household's EBT account.

(2) The retailer shall obtain a telephone authorization from the EBT retailer help desk before finalizing the purchase.

(3) The retailer shall clear the manual transaction within 30 days.

(4) If there are insufficient funds in the client's account when the voucher is presented, the client's account shall be debited for the amount in the account. The remainder of the amount owed shall be

deducted from benefits issued for subsequent months. If the next month's allotment is less than \$50, the deduction shall not exceed \$10.

[ARC 8500B, IAB 2/10/10, effective 3/1/10]

441—65.5(234) Simplified reporting.

65.5(1) Identification. All households are subject to simplified reporting requirements.

65.5(2) Determination of eligibility and benefits. Eligibility and benefits for simplified reporting households shall be determined on the basis of the household's prospective income and circumstances.

65.5(3) Certification periods. Households shall be certified as follows:

a. Households that have no earned income and in which all adult members are elderly or disabled shall be assigned certification periods of 12 months.

b. All other households shall be assigned certification periods of six months.

c. Exceptions:

(1) A household that has unstable circumstances or that includes an able-bodied adult without dependents shall be assigned a shorter certification period consistent with the household's circumstances, but generally no less than three months.

(2) A shorter certification period may be assigned at application or recertification to match the food assistance recertification date to the family investment program or medical assistance annual review date.

65.5(4) Reporting responsibilities. Simplified reporting households are required to report changes as follows:

a. The household shall report if the household's total gross income exceeds 130 percent of the federal poverty level for the household size. The household must report this change within ten days of the end of the month in which the income exceeds this level. A categorically eligible household that reports income over 130 percent of the federal poverty level and that remains eligible for benefits shall not be required to make any additional report of changes.

b. A household containing an able-bodied adult without dependents shall report any change in work hours that brings that adult below 20 hours of work per week, averaged monthly. The household must report this change within ten days of the end of the month in which the change in work hours occurs.

65.5(5) Verification submitted with report form. Rescinded IAB 9/10/08, effective 10/1/08.

65.5(6) Additional information and verification. Rescinded IAB 9/10/08, effective 10/1/08.

65.5(7) Action on reported changes. The department shall act on all reported changes for households regardless of the household's reporting requirements.

65.5(8) Entering or leaving simplified reporting. Rescinded IAB 9/10/08, effective 10/1/08.

65.5(9) Reinstatement. Rescinded IAB 9/10/08, effective 10/1/08.

441—65.6(234) Delays in certification.

65.6(1) When by the thirtieth day after the date of application the agency cannot take any further action on the application due to the fault of the household, the agency shall give the household an additional 30 days to take the required action. The agency shall send the household a notice of pending status on the thirtieth day.

65.6(2) When there is a delay beyond 60 days from the date of application and the agency is at fault and the application is complete enough to determine eligibility, the application shall be processed. For subsequent months of certification, the agency may require a new application form to be completed when household circumstance indicates changes have occurred or will occur.

65.6(3) When there is a delay beyond 60 days from the date of application and the agency is at fault and the application is not complete enough to determine eligibility, the application shall be denied. The household shall be notified to file a new application and that it may be entitled to retroactive benefits.

441—65.7(234) Expedited service. Rescinded IAB 5/2/01, effective 6/1/01.

441—65.8(234) Deductions.

65.8(1) Standard allowance for households with heating or air-conditioning expenses. When a household is receiving heating or air-conditioning service for which it is required to pay all or part of

the expense or receives assistance under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act (LIHEAA) of 1981, the heating or air-conditioning standard shall be allowed.

a. The standard allowance for utilities which include heating or air-conditioning costs shall change annually effective each October 1 using a methodology approved by the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

b. Effective October 1, 2007, two dollars will be subtracted from this amount to allow for cost neutrality necessary for the standard medical expense deduction. Effective October 1, 2008, an additional two dollars, for a total of four dollars, will be subtracted from this amount to achieve continued cost neutrality.

65.8(2) Heating expense. Heating expense is the cost of fuel for the primary heating service normally used by the household.

65.8(3) Telephone standard. When a household is receiving a standard utility allowance under subrule 65.8(1) or 65.8(5) or is solely responsible for telephone expenses, a standard allowance shall be allowed. This allowance shall change annually effective each October 1 using a methodology approved by the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

65.8(4) Energy assistance payments. For purposes of prorating the low income energy assistance payments to determine if households have incurred out-of-pocket expenses for utilities, the heating period shall consist of the months from October through March.

65.8(5) Standard allowance for households without heating or air-conditioning expenses. When a household is receiving some utility service other than heating or air-conditioning for which it is responsible to pay all or part of the expense, the nonheating or air-conditioning standard shall be allowed. These utility expenses cannot be solely for telephone.

a. This allowance shall change annually effective each October 1 using a methodology approved by the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

b. Effective October 1, 2007, two dollars will be subtracted from this amount to allow for cost neutrality necessary for the standard medical expense deduction. Effective October 1, 2008, an additional two dollars, for a total of four dollars, will be subtracted from this amount to achieve continued cost neutrality.

65.8(6) Excluded payments. A utility expense which is reimbursed or paid by an excluded payment, including HUD or FmHA utility reimbursements, shall not be deductible.

65.8(7) Excess medical expense deduction. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these rules or regulations, at certification, households having a member eligible for the excess medical expense deduction shall be allowed to provide verification of expenses so that a reasonable projection of the member's medical expenses anticipated to occur during the household's certification period can be made. The household may choose to claim actual expenses or to use the standard medical expense deduction.

a. Actual medical expense.

(1) The projection may be based on available information about the member's medical condition, public or private medical insurance coverage, and current verified medical expenses.

(2) Households that choose to claim actual medical expenses shall not be required to report changes in medical expenses that were anticipated to occur during the certification period.

b. Standard medical expense.

(1) A household may choose a standard medical expense deduction of \$105 if the household incurs more than \$35 per month in medical expenses.

(2) A household that chooses the standard deduction shall not be required to report changes in medical expenses during the certification period.

c. Rescinded IAB 8/1/07, effective 10/1/07.

65.8(8) Child support payment deduction. Rescinded IAB 5/2/01, effective 6/1/01.

65.8(9) Standard deduction. Each household will receive a standard deduction from income equal to 8.31 percent of the net income limit for food assistance eligibility. No household will receive an amount less than \$144 or more than 8.31 percent of the net income limit for a household of six members. The amount of the standard deduction is adjusted for inflation annually as directed by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

65.8(10) *Sharing utility standards.* Rescinded IAB 9/4/02, effective 10/1/02.

65.8(11) *Excess shelter cap.* Rescinded IAB 5/2/01, effective 6/1/01.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.12.

[ARC 8992B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 10/1/10]

441—65.9(234) Treatment centers and group living arrangements. Alcohol or drug treatment or rehabilitation centers and group living arrangements shall complete Form 470-2724, Monthly Facility Report, on a monthly basis and return the form to the local department office where the center is assigned.

441—65.10(234) Reporting changes. Rescinded IAB 9/10/08, effective 10/1/08.

441—65.11(234) Discrimination complaint. Individuals who feel that they have been subject to discrimination may file a written complaint with the Diversity Programs Unit, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 E. Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114.

441—65.12(234) Appeals. Fair hearings and appeals are provided according to the department's rules, 441—Chapter 7.

441—65.13(234) Joint processing.

65.13(1) *Joint processing with SSI.* The department will handle joint processing of supplemental security income and food assistance applications by having the social security administration complete and forward food assistance applications.

65.13(2) *Joint processing with public assistance.* The department shall jointly process public assistance and food assistance applications.

65.13(3) *Single interview for assistance.* In joint processing of public assistance and food assistance applications, the department shall conduct a single interview at initial application for both purposes.

441—65.14(234) Rescinded, effective 10/1/83.

441—65.15(234) Proration of benefits. Benefits shall be prorated using a 30-day month.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.12.

441—65.16(234) Complaint system. Clients wishing to file a formal written complaint concerning the food assistance program may submit Form 470-0323, or 470-0323(S), Food Assistance Complaint, to the office of field support. Department staff shall encourage clients to use the form.

[ARC 8500B, IAB 2/10/10, effective 3/1/10]

441—65.17(234) Involvement in a strike. An individual is not involved in a strike at the individual's place of employment when the individual is not picketing and does not intend to picket during the course of the dispute, does not draw strike pay, and provides a signed statement that the individual is willing and ready to return to work but does not want to cross the picket line solely because of the risk of personal injury or death or trauma from harassment. The service area manager shall determine whether such a risk to the individual's physical or emotional well-being exists.

441—65.18(234) Rescinded, effective 8/1/86.

441—65.19(234) Monthly reporting/retrospective budgeting. Rescinded IAB 9/10/08, effective 10/1/08.

441—65.20(234) Notice of expiration issuance.

65.20(1) Issuance of the automated Notice of Expiration will occur with the mailing of Form 470-2881, 470-2881(M), 470-2881(S), or 470-2881(MS), Review/Recertification Eligibility Document (RRED), or a hand-issued Form 470-0325, Notice of Expiration.

65.20(2) Issuance of the Notice of Expiration, Form 470-0325, will occur at the time of certification if the household is certified for one month, or for two months, and will not receive the automated Notice of Expiration.

[ARC 8500B, IAB 2/10/10, effective 3/1/10]

441—65.21(234) Claims.

65.21(1) *Time period.* Inadvertent household error claims shall be calculated back to the month the error originally occurred to a maximum of three years before the month of discovery of the overissuance. Agency error claims shall be calculated back to the month the error originally occurred to a maximum of one year before the month of discovery of the overissuance.

65.21(2) *Suspension status.* Rescinded IAB 7/1/98, effective 8/5/98.

65.21(3) *Application of restoration of lost benefits.* Rescinded IAB 3/6/02, effective 5/1/02.

65.21(4) *Demand letters.* Households that have food assistance claims shall return the repayment agreement no later than 20 days after the date the demand letter is mailed.

a. For agency error and inadvertent household error, when households do not return the repayment agreement by the due date or do not timely request an appeal, allotment reduction shall occur with the first allotment issued after the expiration of the Notice of Adverse Action time period.

b. For intentional program violation, when households do not return the repayment agreement by the due date, allotment reduction shall occur with the next month's allotment.

65.21(5) *Adjustments for claim repayment.* A household or authorized representative may initiate a claim repayment by using benefits in an EBT account. The client or authorized representative shall complete Form 470-2574, EBT Adjustment Request, to authorize adjustments to a household's EBT account.

65.21(6) *Collection of claims.* Rescinded IAB 5/30/01, effective 8/1/01.
[ARC 7928B, IAB 7/1/09, effective 9/1/09]

441—65.22(234) Verification.

65.22(1) *Required verification.*

a. *Income.* Households shall be required to verify income at time of application, recertification and when income is reported or when income changes with the following exceptions:

1. Households are not required to verify the public assistance grant.

2. Households are not required to verify job insurance benefits when the information is available to the department from the department of employment services.

3. Households are only required to verify interest income at the time of application and recertification.

b. *Dependent care costs.* Rescinded IAB 3/10/10, effective 2/10/10.

c. *Medical expenses.* Households shall be required to verify medical expenses at the time of application and whenever a change is reported. For recertification:

(1) A household that chose to claim actual expenses must verify medical expenses.

(2) A household that chose the standard medical expense deduction shall be required to declare only if the excess expense still exists.

d. *Shelter costs.* Rescinded IAB 3/10/10, effective 2/10/10.

e. *Utilities.* Rescinded IAB 3/10/10, effective 2/10/10.

f. *Telephone expense.* Rescinded IAB 5/2/01, effective 6/1/01.

g. *Child support payment deduction.* Households shall be required to verify legally obligated child support and child medical support payments made to a person outside of the food assistance household only at certification and recertification and whenever the household reports a change.

65.22(2) *Failure to verify.* When the household does not verify an expense as required, no deduction for that expense will be allowed.

65.22(3) *Special verification procedures.* Persons whose applications meet the initial criteria for error-prone cases may be subject to special verification procedures, including a second face-to-face interview and additional documentation requirements in accordance with department of inspections and appeals' rules 481—Chapter 72.

Clients are required to cooperate with the investigation division of the department of inspections and appeals in establishing eligibility factors, including attending requested interviews. Refusal to cooperate will result in denial or cancellation of the household's food assistance benefits. Once denied or terminated for refusal to cooperate, the household may reapply but shall not be determined eligible until cooperation occurs.

[ARC 8556B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 2/10/10]

441—65.23(234) Prospective budgeting.

65.23(1) *Weekly or biweekly income.* The department shall convert income and deductions that occur on a weekly or biweekly basis to monthly figures using family investment program procedures.

65.23(2) *Income averaging.* The department shall average income by anticipating income fluctuations over the certification period. The number of months used to arrive at the average income should be the number of months that are representative of the anticipated income fluctuation.

441—65.24(234) Inclusion of foster children in household. Foster children living with foster parents will not be considered to be members of the food assistance household unless the household elects to include the foster children in the household. Foster care payments received for foster children not included in the household will be excluded from the income of the household receiving the payment.

441—65.25(234) Effective date of change. A food assistance change caused by, or related to, a public assistance grant change will have the same effective date as the public assistance change.

441—65.26(234) Eligible students. A student who is enrolled in an institution of higher education shall meet student eligibility criteria if the student:

1. Is employed for an average of 20 hours per week and is paid for this employment; or
2. Is self-employed for an average of 20 hours per week and receives average weekly earnings at least equal to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours.

441—65.27(234) Voluntary quit or reduction in hours of work.

65.27(1) *Applicant households.* A member of an applicant household who without good cause voluntarily quits a job or reduces hours of work to less than 30 hours weekly within 30 days before the date the household applies for benefits shall be disqualified from participating in the food assistance program according to the provisions of paragraphs 65.28(12) "a" and "b."

65.27(2) *Participating individuals.* Participating individuals are subject to the same disqualification periods as provided under subrule 65.28(12) when the participating individuals voluntarily quit employment without good cause or voluntarily reduce hours of work to less than 30 hours per week, beginning with the month following the adverse notice period.

441—65.28(234) Work requirements.

65.28(1) *Persons required to register.* Each household member who is not exempt by subrule 65.28(2) shall be registered for employment at the time of application, and once every 12 months after initial registration, as a condition of eligibility. Registration is accomplished when the applicant signs an application form that contains a statement that all members in the household who are required to register for work are willing to register for work. This signature registers all members of that food assistance household that are required to register.

65.28(2) *Exemptions from work registration.* The following persons are exempt from the work registration requirement:

- a. A person younger than 16 years of age or a person 60 years of age or older. A person aged 16 or 17 who is not a head of a household or who is attending school, or is enrolled in an employment training program on at least a half-time basis is exempt.
- b. A person physically or mentally unfit for employment.
- c. A household member subject to and complying with any work requirement under Title IV of the Social Security Act including mandatory PROMISE JOBS referral.

d. A parent or other household member who is responsible for the care of a dependent child under age six or an incapacitated person.

e. A person receiving unemployment compensation.

f. A regular participant in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program which is certified by the Iowa department of public health, division of substance abuse.

g. A person who is employed or self-employed and working a minimum of 30 hours weekly or receiving weekly earnings at least equal to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

h. A student enrolled at least half-time in any recognized school, recognized training program, or an institution of higher education (provided that students have met the requirements of federal regulation, Title 7, Part 273.5, as amended to December 31, 1986).

65.28(3) *Losing exempt status.* Persons who lose exempt status due to any change in circumstances that is subject to the reporting requirements shall register for employment when the change is reported. Persons who lose exempt status due to a change in circumstances that is not subject to the reporting requirements for that household shall register for employment no later than at the household's next recertification.

65.28(4) *Registration process.* Upon reaching a determination that an applicant or a member of the applicant's household is required to register, the pertinent work requirements, the rights and responsibilities of work-registered household members, and the consequences of failure to comply shall be explained to the applicant. A written statement of the above shall be provided to each registrant in the household. The written statement shall also be provided at recertification and when a previously exempt member or a new household member becomes subject to work registration.

Registration for all nonexempt household members required to work register is accomplished when the applicant or recipient signs an application, recertification, or reporting form containing an affirmative response to the question, "Do all members who are required to work register and participate in job search agree to do so?" or similarly worded statement.

65.28(5) *Deregistration.* Work registrants who obtain employment or otherwise become exempt from the work requirement subsequent to registration or who are no longer certified for participation are no longer considered registered.

65.28(6) *Work registrant requirements.* Work registrants shall respond to a request from the department or its designee for supplemental information regarding employment status or availability for work.

65.28(7) *Employment and training program.*

a. The employment and training program for food assistance recipients is designed to assist:

(1) Persons who have lost jobs or are underemployed and who need new skills in order to reenter the workplace because there are no jobs available for which the persons are trained.

(2) Persons who have been out of the workforce for a period of time to regain licensure or certification in an area in which they are already trained.

(3) Persons who wish to upgrade their employment for better wages and benefits.

b. The department or its designee shall serve as the provider of employment and training services for food assistance recipients who wish to volunteer, except for those who are also recipients of family investment program (FIP) benefits. Federal law prohibits FIP recipients from participating in any food assistance employment and training program.

c. The program offers a range of services from basic skills to advanced training in order to accommodate persons with various levels of need and abilities. The department or its designee may require a volunteer to engage in vocational testing activities when deemed necessary to determine if a component is appropriate for improving the volunteer's opportunity for employment.

65.28(8) *Employment and training components.* Employment and training components include individual job search, job club, educational services, and job retention services. The department or its designee shall offer employment and training components subject to the availability of sufficient funding to cover program costs. Availability of components may vary among the areas where employment and training are offered.

a. Individual job search. The individual job search shall be modeled after the family investment program's PROMISE JOBS individual job search component, as described at 441—subrule 93.6(2).

b. Job club. The employment and training job club shall be modeled after the family investment program's PROMISE JOBS job club, as described at 441—subrule 93.6(1).

c. Educational services. Educational services offered shall include general educational development (GED), adult basic education (ABE), English as a second language (ESL), and vocational training or educational opportunities limited to a two-year college degree. Educational services may include, but are not limited to, obtaining continuing education credit hours needed for a recipient to become recertified or to renew licensure for a profession.

d. Job retention services. Job retention services are intended to provide needed assistance with costs associated with beginning employment. Services are available only to persons who have received employment or training services under this subrule. Job retention services will be offered up to 90 days after the person secures employment. Services may include payment of:

(1) A transportation allowance of \$50 per month for round-trip travel of 50 miles or less or \$100 per month for round-trip travel of 51 miles or more.

(2) The cost of testing, certification, licensing, bonding, or legal services required for employment.

(3) The cost of equipment, tools, uniforms, or other special clothing required by the job.

(4) Other reasonable and necessary costs related to starting and retaining employment.

65.28(9) *Exemptions from employment and training programs.* Rescinded IAB 5/5/10, effective 4/15/10.

65.28(10) *Time spent in an employment and training program.* Rescinded IAB 5/5/10, effective 4/15/10.

65.28(11) *Supportive services.* Program participants shall be provided with services necessary to complete an employment and training component to the extent allowable under federal regulations at 7 CFR 237.7(e)(4) as amended to January 1, 2009, and to the extent there is sufficient funding to cover the costs.

a. The department shall provide participants in employment and training components an allowance for costs of transportation or other costs reasonably necessary and directly related to participation in the components as follows:

(1) A transportation allowance of \$50 per month for round-trip travel of 50 miles or less or \$100 per month for round-trip travel of 51 miles or more.

(2) Reasonable and necessary costs of attending a specific course of study, such as tuition, books, fees, training manuals, tools, equipment, uniforms and special clothing, safety items, and other items that all students in the course are required to have.

b. The department may authorize the employment and training service provider to reimburse the provider of care directly for the costs of dependent care expenses that the employment and training service provider determines to be necessary for the participation of a person in the components.

(1) Reimbursement for dependent care shall be authorized only to the extent that another source is not available to provide the care at no cost to the employment and training program and shall be based on the child care assistance program reimbursement rates as described at 441—paragraph 170.4(7) “a.”

(2) The caretaker relative of a dependent in a family receiving FIP is not eligible for the dependent care reimbursement.

65.28(12) *Failure to comply.* This subrule applies only to persons who are mandatory work registrants as required by subrule 65.28(1).

a. When a person has refused or failed without good cause to comply with the work registration requirements in this rule, that person shall be ineligible to participate in the food assistance program as follows:

(1) First violation: The later of (1) the date the individual complies with the requirement; or (2) two months.

(2) Second violation: The later of (1) the date the individual complies with the requirement; or (2) three months.

(3) Third and subsequent violations: The later of (1) the date the individual complies with the requirement; or (2) six months.

b. The disqualification period shall begin with the first month following the expiration of the adverse notice period, unless a fair hearing is requested.

65.28(13) *Noncompliance with comparable requirements.* The department shall treat a mandatory work registrant's failure to comply with an unemployment compensation requirement that is comparable to a food assistance work registration requirement as a failure to comply with the corresponding food assistance requirement. Disqualification procedures in subrule 65.28(12) shall be followed.

65.28(14) *Ending disqualification.* Following the end of the disqualification periods for noncompliance and as provided in rules 441—65.27(234) and 441—65.28(234), participation may resume.

a. An applicant disqualified under subrule 65.27(1) may be approved for benefits after serving the minimum disqualification period and complying with the work requirement, as follows:

(1) If the applicant voluntarily quit a job, the applicant must obtain a job comparable to the one that the applicant quit.

(2) If the applicant voluntarily reduced hours of employment to less than 30 hours per week, the applicant must start working 30 or more hours per week.

b. A disqualified individual who is a member of a currently participating eligible household shall be added to the household after the minimum disqualification period has been served and the person has complied with the failed requirement as follows:

(1) If the member failed or refused to register for work with the department, the member complies by registering.

(2) If the member voluntarily quit a job, the member must obtain a job comparable to the one quit.

(3) If the member voluntarily reduced hours of employment to less than 30 hours per week, the member must start working 30 or more hours per week.

c. An individual may reestablish eligibility during a disqualification period by becoming exempt from the work requirement as provided in subrule 65.28(2).

65.28(15) *Suitable employment.* Employment shall be considered unsuitable if:

a. The wage offered is less than the highest of the applicable federal minimum wage, the applicable state minimum wage, or 80 percent of the federal minimum wage if neither the federal nor state minimum wage is applicable.

b. The employment offered is on a piece-rate basis and the average hourly yield the employee can reasonably be expected to earn is less than the applicable hourly wages specified in paragraph "a" above.

c. The household member, as a condition of employment or continuing employment, is required to join, resign from, or refrain from joining a legitimate labor organization.

d. The work offered is at a site subject to a strike or lockout at the time of the offer unless the strike has been enjoined under Section 208 of the Labor-Management Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 78A) (commonly known as the Taft-Hartley Act), or unless an injunction has been issued under Section 10 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 160).

e. The household member involved can demonstrate or the department otherwise becomes aware that:

(1) The degree of risk to health and safety is unreasonable.

(2) The member is physically or mentally unfit to perform the employment, as documented by medical evidence or by reliable information from other sources.

(3) The employment offered within the first 30 days of registration is not in the member's major field of experience.

(4) The distance from the member's home to the place of employment is unreasonable considering the expected wage and the time and cost of commuting. Employment shall not be considered suitable if daily commuting time exceeds two hours per day, not including the transporting of a child to and from a child care facility. Employment shall also not be considered suitable if the distance to the place of employment prohibits walking and neither public nor private transportation is available to transport the member to the job site.

(5) The working hours or nature of the employment interferes with the member's religious observances, convictions, or beliefs.

65.28(16) *Applicants for supplemental security income (SSI) and food assistance.* Household members who are jointly applying for SSI and for food assistance shall have the requirements for work registration waived until:

- a. They are determined eligible for SSI and thereby become exempt from work registration, or
- b. They are determined ineligible for SSI whereupon a determination of work registration status will be made.

65.28(17) *Determining good cause.* The department or its designee shall determine whether good cause exists for failure to comply with the work registration, employment and training, and voluntary quit requirements in 441—Chapter 65. In determining whether good cause exists, the facts and circumstances shall be considered, including information submitted by the household member involved and the employer.

Good cause shall include circumstances beyond the member's control, such as, but not limited to, illness of the registrant or of another household member requiring the presence of the registrant, a household emergency, the unavailability of transportation, or the lack of adequate child care for children who have reached age 6 but are under age 12.

65.28(18) *Measuring the three-year period for able-bodied nonexempt adults without dependents.* The three-year period as provided for in federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 as amended to June 19, 2002, starts on December 1, 2002, and ends November 30, 2005. Subsequent three-year periods start with the month of December following the end of the previous period.

65.28(19) *Mini-simplified food assistance program.*

- a. *Scope.* The department operates a mini-simplified food assistance program for households that:
 - (1) Also receive benefits under the family investment program; and
 - (2) Include a parent who is exempt from food assistance requirements for work registration due to caring for a child under the age of six.

- b. *Effect.* The mini-simplified food assistance program allows replacement of certain food assistance program work rules with work rules of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program. The value of the household's monthly food assistance benefits shall be combined with the household's monthly family investment program benefit amount to determine the maximum number of hours the department can require a household member under the family investment program to participate in an unpaid work activity that is subject to the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Maximum required hours of participation for a month are determined by dividing the total amount of benefits by the state or federal minimum wage, whichever wage is higher.

[ARC 8500B, IAB 2/10/10, effective 3/1/10; ARC 8712B, IAB 5/5/10, effective 4/15/10]

441—65.29(234) Income.

65.29(1) *Uneven proration of self-employment income.* Once a household with self-employment income is determined eligible based on its monthly net self-employment income, the household has the following options for computation of the benefit level:

- a. Using the same net monthly self-employment income which was used to determine eligibility, or

- b. Unevenly prorating the household's annual self-employment income over the period for which the household's self-employment income was averaged to more closely approximate the time when the income is actually received. If this option is chosen, the self-employment income assigned in any month together with other income and deductions at the time of certification cannot result in the household's exceeding the maximum monthly net income eligibility standards for the household's size.

65.29(2) *Job insurance benefits.* When the department of human services uses information provided by the department of workforce development to verify job insurance benefits, the benefits shall be considered received the second day after the date that the check was mailed. When the second day falls on a Sunday or federal legal holiday, the time shall be extended to the next mail delivery day.

When the client notifies the agency that the amount of job insurance benefits used is incorrect, the client shall be allowed to verify the discrepancy. A benefit adjustment shall be made when indicated. The client must report the discrepancy before the benefit month or within ten days of the date on the Notice of Decision, Form 470-0485, 470-0486, or 470-0486(S), applicable to the benefit month, whichever is later, in order to receive corrected benefits.

65.29(3) *Exclusion of income from 2000 census employment.* Rescinded IAB 9/4/02, effective 10/1/02.

65.29(4) *Interest income.* Prorate interest income by dividing the amount anticipated during the certification period by the number of months in the certification period.

65.29(5) *Social security plans for achieving self-support (PASS).* Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these rules or regulations, exclude income amounts necessary for fulfillment of a plan for achieving self-support (PASS) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act.

65.29(6) *Student income.* In determining eligibility, the department shall exclude educational income, including any educational loans on which payment is deferred, grants, scholarships, fellowships, veterans' educational benefits, and the like excluded under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

a. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these rules or regulations, the department shall exclude educational income based on amounts earmarked by the institution, school, program, or other grantor as made available for the specific costs of tuition, mandatory fees, books, supplies, transportation and miscellaneous personal expenses (other than living expenses).

b. If the institution, school, program, or other grantor does not earmark amounts made available for the allowable costs involved, students shall receive an exclusion from educational income for educational assistance verified by the student as used for the allowable costs involved. Students can also verify the allowable costs involved when amounts earmarked are less than amounts that would be excluded by a strict earmarking policy.

c. For the purpose of this rule, mandatory fees include the rental or purchase of equipment, materials and supplies related to the course of study involved.

65.29(7) *Elementary and high school student income.* Rescinded IAB 5/2/01, effective 6/1/01.

65.29(8) *Vendor payments.* Rescinded IAB 5/2/01, effective 6/1/01.

65.29(9) *HUD or FmHA utility reimbursement.* Rescinded IAB 5/2/01, effective 6/1/01.

65.29(10) *Welfare reform and regular household honorarium income.* All moneys paid to a food assistance household in connection with the welfare reform demonstration longitudinal study or focus groups shall be exempted.

65.29(11) *Income of ineligible aliens.* The department shall use all but a pro-rata share of ineligible aliens' income and deductible expenses to determine eligibility and benefits of any remaining household members.

65.29(12) *Unearned income.* Unearned income is any income in cash that is not gained by labor or service. When taxes are withheld from unearned income, the amount considered will be the net income after the withholding of taxes (Federal Insurance Contribution Act, state and federal income taxes). Net unearned income shall be determined by deducting reasonable income-producing costs from the gross unearned income. Money left after this deduction shall be considered gross income available to the household.

[ARC 8500B, IAB 2/10/10, effective 3/1/10]

441—65.30(234) Resources.

65.30(1) *Jointly held resources.* When property is jointly held it shall be assumed that each person owns an equal share unless the intent of the persons holding the property can be otherwise established.

65.30(2) *Resource limit.* The resource limit for a household that includes a person aged 60 or over or a disabled person is \$3000. The resource limit for other households is \$2000. These amounts are adjusted for inflation annually as directed by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

65.30(3) Resources of SSI and FIP household members. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these rules or in federal regulations, all resources of SSI or FIP recipients are excluded. For food assistance purposes, those members' resources, if identified, cannot be included when a household's total resources are calculated.

65.30(4) Earned income tax credits. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these rules or in federal regulations, earned income tax credits (EITC) shall be excluded from consideration as a resource for 12 months from the date of receipt if:

a. The person receiving the EITC was participating in the food assistance program at the time the credits were received; and

b. The person participated in the program continuously during the 12-month period.

65.30(5) Student income. Exclude from resources any income excluded by subrule 65.29(6).

65.30(6) Motor vehicles. One motor vehicle per household shall be excluded without regard to its value. The value of remaining motor vehicles shall be determined using federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.8, as amended to April 29, 2003.

65.30(7) Retirement accounts. Exclude from resources the value of:

a. Any funds in a plan, contract, or account described in Sections 401(a), 403(a), 403(b), 408, 408A, 457(b), and 501(c)(18) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

b. Any funds in a Federal Thrift Savings Plan account as provided in Section 8439 of Title 5, United States Code.

c. Any retirement program or account included in any successor or similar provision that may be enacted and determined to be exempt from tax under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

d. Any other retirement plans, contracts, or accounts determined to be exempt by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

65.30(8) Education accounts. Exclude from resources the value of:

a. Any funds in a qualified tuition program described in Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or in a Coverdell Education Savings Account under Section 530 of the Internal Revenue Code.

b. Any other education plans, contracts or accounts determined to be exempt by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

441—65.31(234) Homeless meal providers. When a local office of the department is notified that an establishment or shelter has applied to be able to accept food assistance benefits for homeless persons, staff shall obtain a written statement from the establishment or shelter. The statement must contain information on how often meals are served by the establishment or shelter, the approximate number of meals served per month, and a statement that the establishment or shelter does serve meals to homeless persons. This information must be dated and signed by a person in charge of the administration of the establishment or shelter and give the person's title or function with the establishment.

The establishment or shelter shall cooperate with agency staff in the determination of whether or not meals are served to the homeless.

441—65.32(234) Basis for allotment. The minimum benefit amount for all eligible one-member and two-member households shall be 8 percent of the maximum monthly allotment for a household size of one member.

441—65.33(234) Dependent care deduction. Households shall be allowed a deduction for the amount of monthly dependent care expenses.

[ARC 8556B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 2/10/10]

441—65.34(234) Exclusion of advance earned income tax credit payments from income. Rescinded IAB 10/30/91, effective 1/1/92.

441—65.35(234) Migrant and seasonal farm worker households. Rescinded IAB 10/30/91, effective 1/1/92.

441—65.36(234) Electronic benefit transfer (EBT) of food stamp benefits. Rescinded IAB 3/5/03, effective 5/1/03.

441—65.37(234) Eligibility of noncitizens. The following groups of aliens who are lawfully residing in the United States and are otherwise eligible are eligible for food assistance benefits:

65.37(1) Aliens who are receiving benefits or assistance for blindness or disability as specified in 7 CFR 271.2, as amended to April 6, 1994, regardless of their immigration date.

65.37(2) Aliens who have been residing in the United States for at least five years as legal permanent residents.

65.37(3) Aliens who hold one of the following statuses:

a. A refugee admitted under Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

b. A Cuban or Haitian entrant admitted under Section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980.

c. An Amerasian immigrant admitted under Section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Program Appropriations Act.

d. An asylee admitted under Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

e. An alien whose deportation or removal has been withheld under Section 243(h) or 241(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

65.37(4) Aliens aged 18 or under, regardless of their immigration date. The department shall exclude the income and resources of a sponsor when determining food assistance eligibility and benefits for an alien aged 18 or under.

441—65.38(234) Income deductions. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these rules or regulations, student households cannot receive an income deduction for dependent care expenses that were excluded from educational income.

441—65.39(234) Categorical eligibility.

65.39(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these rules or in federal regulations, a household in which all members are recipients of a state or local general assistance (GA) program is subject to categorical eligibility provisions of the food assistance program provided that the state or local program:

a. Has income limits at least as stringent as the food assistance gross income test; and

b. Gives assistance other than one-time emergency payments that cannot be given for more than one continuous month.

65.39(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these rules or in federal regulations, a household is subject to categorical eligibility provisions of the food assistance program for any month in which the household is determined eligible for the Iowa promoting healthy marriage program pursuant to rule 441—47.2(234).

[ARC 9173B, IAB 11/3/10, effective 1/1/11]

441—65.40(234) Head of the household. Rescinded IAB 8/11/99, effective 11/1/99.

441—65.41(234) Actions on changes increasing benefits. Action on changes resulting in an increase in benefits will take place after the verification is received.

441—65.42(234) Work transition period. Rescinded IAB 3/6/02, effective 5/1/02.

441—65.43(234) Household composition. Rescinded IAB 5/2/01, effective 6/1/01.

441—65.44(234) Reinstatement.

65.44(1) The department shall reinstate assistance without a new application when the element that caused termination of a case no longer exists and eligibility can be reestablished prior to the effective date of cancellation.

65.44(2) When assistance has been canceled for failure to provide requested information, assistance shall be reinstated without a new application if all information necessary to establish eligibility, including verification of any changes, is provided within 14 days of the effective date of cancellation and eligibility can be reestablished. If the fourteenth calendar day falls on a weekend or state holiday, the client shall have until the next business day to provide the information. The effective date of assistance shall be the date all information required to establish eligibility is provided.

[ARC 8500B, IAB 2/10/10, effective 3/1/10]

441—65.45(234) Conversion to the X-PERT system. Rescinded IAB 3/6/02, effective 5/1/02.

441—65.46(234) Disqualifications. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these rules, food assistance program violation disqualifications for persons who are not participating in the food assistance program shall be imposed in the same manner as program violation disqualifications are imposed for persons who are participating in the food assistance program.

65.46(1) First and second violations. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these rules or regulations, the disqualification penalty for a first intentional program violation shall be one year except for those first violations involving a controlled substance. The disqualification penalty for a second intentional violation and any first violation involving a controlled substance shall be two years.

65.46(2) Conviction on trafficking in food assistance benefits. The penalty for any individual convicted of trafficking in food assistance benefits of \$500 or more shall be permanent disqualification.

65.46(3) Receiving or attempting to receive multiple benefits. An individual found to have made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect to identity or residency in order to receive multiple benefits shall be ineligible to participate in the food assistance program for a period of ten years.

65.46(4) Fleeing felons and probation or parole violators. Rescinded IAB 10/3/01, effective 10/1/01.

65.46(5) Conviction of trading firearms, ammunition or explosives for benefits. The penalty for any individual convicted of trading firearms, ammunition or explosives for food assistance benefits shall be permanent disqualification.

441—65.47(234) Eligibility of noncitizens. Rescinded IAB 5/2/01, effective 6/1/01.

441—65.48(234) Sponsored aliens. Rescinded IAB 5/2/01, effective 6/1/01.

441—65.49(234) Providing information to law enforcement officials. Rescinded IAB 10/3/01, effective 10/1/01.

441—65.50(234) No increase in benefits. When a household's means-tested federal, state, or local public assistance cash benefits are reduced because of a failure to perform an action required by the public assistance program, the department shall reduce the household's food assistance benefit allotment by 10 percent as provided for in federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.11(j), (k), and (l) as amended to June 1, 2001, for the duration of the other program's penalty.

441—65.51(234) State income and eligibility verification system. The department shall maintain and use an income and eligibility verification system (IEVS) as specified in 7 CFR 272.8 as amended to November 21, 2000.

441—65.52(234) Systematic alien verification for entitlements (SAVE) program. The department shall participate in the SAVE program established by the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service (BCIS) as specified in 7 CFR 272.11 as amended to November 21, 2000, in order to verify the validity of documents provided by aliens applying for food assistance benefits with the central data files maintained by BCIS.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.12.

441—65.53 to 65.100 Reserved.

DIVISION II

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◊ Two or more ARCs

¹ Amendments to subrules 65.30(5) and 65.130(7) and rules 65.32(234) and 65.132(234) effective 10/1/96.

² Subrules 65.8(11) and 65.108(11) effective 1/1/97.