

441—60.9(217) Work and training requirements.

60.9(1) *Standards applicable to both work and training assignments.* The following standards must be met before an employable refugee can be required to accept a work or training assignment. A job offered, if determined appropriate under subrules 60.9(1) and 60.9(2), is required to be accepted by the refugee without regard to whether the job would interrupt a program of services planned or in progress unless the refugee is currently participating in a program in progress of on-the-job training or vocational training approved as part of an individual's employability plan or the refugee is enrolled full-time in a professional recertification program approved as part of an individual's employability plan.

a. The job or training referral must be related to the physical and mental capability of the person to perform the task on a regular basis. Any claim of adverse effect on physical or mental health will be based on adequate medical testimony from a physician or licensed or certified psychologist indicating that participation would impair the person's physical or mental health.

b. The total daily commuting time to and from home to the work or training site to which the person is referred shall not normally exceed two hours, not including the transporting of a child to and from a child care facility, unless a longer commuting distance and time is generally accepted in the community, in which case the round trip commuting time shall not exceed the generally accepted community standards.

c. The work or training site to which the person is referred must not be in violation of applicable federal, state, and local health and safety standards.

d. Referrals shall not be made that are discriminatory in terms of age, sex, race, creed, color, or national origin.

e. When child care is required, the child care must meet state licensing or registration requirements.

f. Available manpower statistics for a local area must indicate adequate employment potential for persons obtaining the given training. The employment must also meet the other appropriate work requirements.

g. The work or training assignment must be within the scope of the refugee's employability plan.

h. The quality of training must meet local employers' requirements so that the refugee will be in a competitive position within the local labor market. The training must also be likely to lead to employment that will meet the appropriate work criteria.

i. If a refugee is a professional in need of professional refresher training and other recertification services in order to qualify to practice the refugee's profession in the United States, the training may consist of full-time attendance in a college or professional training program, provided that the training is approved by the department as a part of the refugee's employability plan; it does not exceed one year's duration (including any time enrolled in the program in the United States prior to the refugee's application for assistance); it is specifically intended to assist the professional in becoming relicensed in the refugee's profession; and, if completed, it can realistically be expected to result in relicensing.

60.9(2) *Appropriate work requirements.* The local office, in making a determination of appropriate work, shall utilize the following criteria:

a. Appropriate work may be temporary, permanent, full-time, part-time, or seasonal work if it meets the other work standards defined in subrule 60.9(1).

b. The wage shall meet or exceed the federal or state minimum wage law, whichever is applicable, or if these laws are not applicable, the wage shall not be less favorable than the wage normally paid for similar work in that labor market but in no event shall it be less than three-fourths of the minimum wage rate.

c. The daily hours of work and the weekly hours of work shall not exceed those customary to the occupation.

d. No person shall be required to accept employment if:

(1) The position offered is vacant due to a strike, lockout, or other bona fide labor dispute.

(2) The person would be required to work for an employer contrary to the conditions of the person's existing membership in the union governing that occupation. However, employment not governed by the rules of a union in which the person has membership may be deemed appropriate.

60.9(3) *Development of an individual employability plan.* An individual employability plan will be developed as a part of a family self-sufficiency plan where applicable for each recipient of refugee cash assistance in a filing unit who is not exempt under subrule 60.8(1). The individual employability plan will:

a. Be designed to lead to the earliest possible employment and not be structured in such a way as to discourage or delay employment or job seeking.

b. Contain a definite employment goal, attainable in the shortest time period consistent with the employability of the refugee in relation to job openings in the area.

60.9(4) *Job search requirements.* The department will mandate job search for employable refugees where appropriate.

a. An employable recipient of refugee cash assistance shall carry out a job search program beginning at any time mandated by the bureau of refugee services. The bureau of refugee services will require the job search program to begin no later than six months after the refugee entered the United States or at the time the refugee is determined eligible for refugee cash assistance, if the refugee has completed at least six months in the United States at the time of the determination.

b. The job search program shall continue for at least eight consecutive weeks and shall meet requirements that the bureau of refugee services determines appropriate, including the amount of time to be devoted to employer contacts per week or the number of employer contacts mandated per week.

c. The department will determine and carry out the procedures it considers necessary to ensure that mandates for participation in job search are met.

60.9(5) *Failure or refusal to accept employability services or employment.*

a. Unless the refugee is exempt as described at rule 441—60.8(217), the department will terminate assistance when an employable recipient of refugee cash assistance has failed or refused to comply with any of the following requirements without good cause. The refugee shall:

(1) Register for employment with the department of workforce development and, within 30 days of receipt of cash assistance, participate in employment services provided by the bureau.

(2) Apply for or accept an offer of employment meeting the standards above.

(3) Carry out job search.

(4) Go to a job interview arranged by the department or its designee.

(5) Participate in an employability service program that is determined to be available and appropriate for that refugee.

(6) Not voluntarily quit a job.

(7) Participate in a social service or targeted assistance program that the department determines to be available and appropriate for that refugee.

b. In cases of proposed action to terminate, discontinue, suspend, or reduce assistance, the department will give timely and adequate notice, following the same procedures as those used in the family investment program. The written notice will include:

(1) An explanation of the reason for the action and the consequences of failure or refusal.

(2) Notice of the refugee's right to file an appeal with the department. The department will determine whether a hearing will be granted.

c. For the first refusal or failure the refugee will be sanctioned for three payment months. Subsequent refusals or failures will result in a six-payment month sanction for each refusal or failure.

d. If the sanctioned individual is the only member of the filing unit, the assistance will be terminated. If the filing unit includes other members, the department will not take into account the sanctioned individual's needs in determining the filing unit's need for assistance.

e. A conciliation period prior to the imposition of sanctions must be provided for in accordance with the following time limitations. The conciliation effort will begin as soon as possible, but no later than 10 days following the date of failure or refusal to participate, and may continue for a period not to exceed 30 days. Either the department or the recipient may terminate this period sooner when either believes that the dispute cannot be resolved by conciliation.

[ARC 9278C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 7/1/25]