

# **COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and Workfirst in Washington State: You Do Not Need to Meet Your Participation Requirements**

## **Should I read this?**

Read this if you live in Washington state and you are taking part in the WorkFirst program.

## **I was laid off or have reduced hours at work because of the Coronavirus. I cannot meet my work requirements.**

Starting March 16, 2020, Washington DSHS has decided that the COVID-19 outbreak is “good cause” and you do not have to meet your participation requirements.

## **Will I need to meet with WorkFirst staff to talk about this?**

No. They will try to get in touch with you by phone. If they cannot, they will send you a letter.

## **How long will this exemption last?**

DSHS says this will last until the “public health condition” returns to normal. WorkFirst staff will let you know when that happens.

## **But I still want to take part in the activities in my IRP (work plan).**

You can let WorkFirst staff know that. You might have some options.

## **I have been on TANF before. I was sanctioned or my TANF ended because I did not meet my WorkFirst requirements. I need to apply for TANF again.**

For now, DSHS will not hold your past sanctions against you.

---

This publication provides general information concerning your rights and responsibilities. It is not intended as a substitute for specific legal advice.

© 2020 Northwest Justice Project — 1-888-201-1014

(Permission for copying and distribution granted to the Alliance for Equal Justice and to individuals for non-commercial purposes only.)