



What You Need to Know About Public Assistance Work and Employment Activities During COVID-19 Outbreak

WHAT IF I CANNOT ATTEND A WORK ACTIVITY BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

If you are unable to go to a work activity because of circumstance involving COVID-19, HRA will automatically find that you had “good cause” for missing the activity through May 15, 2020. Circumstances include, lack of transportation, lack of childcare, worksite closures, or legitimate concerns about using public transportation or other factors.

WHAT IF I CANNOT ATTEND AN EMPLOYMENT APPOINTMENT BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

If you are unable to go to an employment appointment because of circumstances involving COVID-19, HRA will automatically find that you had “good cause” for missing the appointment. Circumstances include, lack of transportation, lack of childcare, worksite closures, or legitimate concerns about using public transportation or other factors.

HOW DO I COMPLETE MY EMPLOYMENT ASSESSMENTS?

You can complete employment assessments and employment plans by telephone to comply with the 90-day requirement for adults in households with dependent children. The local offices should then mail you copies of completed/updated plans that were discussed during telephone calls.

HOW DO I COMPLETE AN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY IF I CANNOT ATTEND A JOB SITE?

If you are doing educational activities, you should continue to participate via distance learning, if available. The local office may report your hours of educational activities that are done remotely as participation in that activity regardless of the 10-hour limit.

ARE THERE CHANGES TO EMPLOYMENT ORIENTATIONS?

Yes, local offices will avoid doing employment orientation face-to-face or in-group settings. Local offices may do employment orientations over the phone, online, or provide written materials by mail.

ARE THERE CHANGES TO JOB SEARCH/JOB READINESS TRAINING?

Yes, local offices will avoid doing job search/job readiness training activities in large group settings until May 15, 2020.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Online resources to help districts and clients utilize JobZone are available at:
 - <https://labor.ny.gov/careerservices/jobzone/index.shtm>
 - JobZone FAQs may be found at <https://labor.ny.gov/careerservices/JobZone/pdf/JobZoneFAQs.pdf>

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE A QUESTION?

You can call Mobilization for Justice’s Government Benefits Project at 212-417-3732 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Fridays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

DISCLAIMER: This fact sheet gives general information for NYC Residents; it is NOT legal advice.

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