

Department of Social and Health Services
Olympia, Washington
EAZ Manual

Revision # 713
Category Assistance Units – Basic Food
Issued April 12, 2010
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Summary

WAC 388-408-0040 – “How does living in an institution affect my eligibility for Basic Food?”

The Community Services Division, Basic Food Program policy unit has added some information to the EA-Z Manual under **Assistance Units – Basic Food**, WAC 388-408-0040, *How does living in an institution affect my eligibility for Basic Food?* “. Paragraph (9.) was added to “Clarifying Information” which refers to subsection (3) (e), **Nonprofit shelters for the homeless**. The information added states that there are no “for-profit” homeless shelters in the state of Washington. This means workers do not have to make determinations about whether a homeless shelter is nonprofit or for-profit during the Basic Food eligibility process.

The addition of the text to the EA-Z Manual in this section did not change any rule or policy. Some paragraphs had to be renumbered as a result of the addition of this text.

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WAC 388-408-0040 How does living in an institution affect my eligibility for Basic Food?

1. For Basic Food, an "institution" means a place where people live that provides residents more than half of three meals daily as a part of their normal services.
2. Most residents of institutions are not eligible for Basic Food.
3. If you live in one of the following institutions, you may be eligible for Basic Food even if the institution provides the majority of your meals:
 - a. Federally subsidized housing for the elderly;
 - b. Qualified drug and alcohol treatment centers when an employee of the treatment center is the authorized representative as defined under WAC 388-460-0010;
 - c. Qualified DDD group homes for persons with disabilities;
 - d. A shelter for battered women and children when the resident left the home that included the abuser; or
 - e. Nonprofit shelters for the homeless.**
4. A qualified DDD group home is a nonprofit residential facility that:
 - a. Houses sixteen or fewer persons with disabilities as defined under [WAC 388-400-0040\(6\)](#); and
 - b. Is certified by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).
5. A qualified drug & alcohol treatment center is a residential facility that:
 - a. Is authorized as a retailer by the US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service;
or
 - b. Is operated by a private nonprofit organization; **and**
 - c. Is certified by the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) as:
 - i. *Receiving funds* under part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act;
 - ii. *Eligible to receive funds* under part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act, but does not receive these funds; or
 - iii. *Operating to further the purposes* of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act to provide treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts or alcoholics.
6. Elderly or disabled individuals and their spouses may use Basic Food benefits to buy meals from the following meal providers if FNS has approved them to accept Basic Food benefits:
 - a. Communal dining facility; or
 - b. Nonprofit meal delivery service.

7. If you are homeless, you may use your Basic Food benefits to buy prepared meals from non-profit organizations the department has certified as meal providers for the homeless.

This is a reprint of the official rule as published by the [Office of the Code Reviser](#). If there are previous versions of this rule, they can be found using the [Legislative Search page](#).

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

1. **Federally subsidized housing for the elderly:**

For someone to be eligible for Basic Food based on living in federally subsidized housing for the elderly, the housing must meet **both of** the following two conditions:

- a. The facility must be *expressly for the elderly*; and
- b. The facility must be federally subsidized.

2. **Optional meal plans:**

If a residence offers an **optional** meal plan as a part of their normal services, we only consider a resident to be living in an institution for Basic Food if they choose to get their meals through the optional plan.

If someone chooses to get the majority of their meals through an optional meal plan, the person is living in an institution. For this person to be eligible for Basic Food benefits, the institution must meet the requirements of WAC 388-408-0040 .

3. **When someone in an ineligible institution may get Basic Food:**

A person who lives in an institution that provides meals may be eligible for Basic Food benefits when:

- a. The person living in the institution can't eat the institution's meals because they need a special diet; and
- b. The institution is unable or unwilling to provide the special diet.

4. **Release from a hospital or other institution:**

- a. A person in a hospital or other ineligible institution is not eligible for Basic Food until they are released from the institution.
- b. If someone applies for Basic Food while in an ineligible institution and they are released within 30 days, we use the date of release as their date of application for Basic Food.

5. **Group living arrangements that are not Qualified Group Homes:**

Some group living arrangements are not qualified group homes, but we don't consider them institutions, because the facility doesn't prepare the majority of meals for the persons living there. In this case, we look at the client's living arrangements and whether or not they buy and fix food together to determine who must be in the AU under [WAC 388-408-0035](#).

6. **Supported Living Providers / ITS Homes:**

A Supported Living Provider (formerly Intensive Tenant Support Services or ITS Home) provides services to DDD clients and is licensed by DDD.

- a. Most clients who receive services through one of these providers receive home care or live-in attendant services and are not a licensed group home. These persons are not living in an institution. We look at requirements under WAC 388-408-0035 to determine who must be in a client's AU.
- b. Some Supported Living Providers also run qualified DDD group homes. Since these clients are living in a qualified DDD group home, they can receive Basic Food.

NOTE: Knowing that a client gets services from a Supported Living Provider does not tell you if the client is in a qualified group home. To determine if the institution is eligible for Basic Food, review the group home files in ACES.

7. Nonprofit Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centers Authorized as FNS retailers:

Drug or alcohol treatment centers certified by FNS as eligible for Basic Food: (Nonprofit facility authorized as a retailer under 7 CFR §278.1(e))		
Drug Abuse Prevention Center Kelso, WA 98626	Evergreen Manor Everett, WA 98201	Genesis House Seattle, WA 98122
Grays Harbor Community Hosp. Aberdeen, WA 98520	New Horizon Care Center Spokane, WA 98220	Perinatal Treatment Serv - Seattle Seattle, WA 98133
Perinatal Treatment Serv-Tacoma Seattle, WA 98133	Pioneer Center East Spokane, WA 99209	Pioneer Human Services Seattle, WA 98108
PKA: Clark County Council on Alcohol and Drugs Vancouver, WA 98668	Providence St. Peter CDC Lacey, WA 98503	Puyallup Tribal Health Authority Tacoma, WA 98404
Recovery Centers of King County Seattle, WA 98144	Residence XII Kirkland, WA 98034	Sea Mar Adult Residential Treatment Center Tacoma, WA 98409
Seattle Drug and Narcotic Center Seattle, WA 98108	Spokane Addiction Recovery Ctr. Spokane, WA 99204	Squaxin Island Tribe Elma, WA 98541
The center for Alcohol / Drug Treatment Wenatchee, WA 98807	Triumph Treatment Services Buena, WA 98921	Triumph Treatment Services Yakima, WA 98902
Triumph Treatment Services Kennewick, WA 99336		

8. DASA certification of nonprofit drug and alcohol treatment facilities:

Drug or alcohol treatment centers endorsed by DASA as eligible for Basic Food: (Nonprofit facility authorized as a retailer under 7 CFR §278.1(e))		
Freedom House of Yakima Selah, WA 98942	Haven Ministries Yakima, WA 98908	Tacoma Rescue Mission Tacoma, WA 98401
Teen Challenge Graham, WA 98338	Teen Challenge Renton, WA 98338	Teen Challenge Seattle Metro Seattle, WA 98117
Teen Challenge Spokane, WA 99224		

A facility's status as "**DASA certified**" in this section only refers to the facility having a food stamp / Basic Food endorsement.

9. Nonprofit shelters for the homeless

According to the Washington Department of Commerce's Housing Division Homeless Programs and the Washington State Coalition for the Homeless, there are no "for-profit" shelters for the homeless in the state of Washington. We can assume that all the homeless shelters in Washington are non-profit for the purposes of determining eligibility for homeless applicants.
