

How do I get started in WEP?

Placement in WEP is part of a larger set of services to help you obtain and keep a job. If you receive Ohio Works First and/or food assistance benefits, and meet eligibility requirements, Stark County Job and Family Services will work with you and refer you to employers who participate in the WEP program.

What this means is that, before assigning you to a work activity, a case worker will take you through a thorough assessment of your education, skills, training, strengths, barriers and support system to help you determine your employment goals and what you need to do to reach your goals. All of the information gathered through the assessment will be used to match you to a work site that can help you develop and practice the skills you need for employment.



Stark County Job & Family Services

Human Services Division

221 3rd Street S.E.
Canton, OH 44702

*Cash, Food, Medical Assistance
Applications & Customer Service:*
1.844.640.OHIO (6446)
Child Care: 330.452.4661

Children Services Division

402 2nd Street S.E.
Canton, OH 44702

Child Abuse/Neglect Report Line:
330.455.KIDS
Foster/Adopt:
330.451.8789

Child Support Division

221 3rd Street S.E.
Canton, OH 44702

Customer Service: 330.451.8930
Payment information:
jfs.ohio.gov/ocs

SCJFS Executive Offices

221 3rd Street S.E.
Canton, OH 44702
330.452.4661



starkjfs.org



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Work Experience Program

Human Services Division



**Stark County
Job & Family Services**

What is the Work Experience Program?

The Work Experience Program (WEP) is designed for participants to work without pay at a job site in a business or organization in exchange for their cash assistance and/or food assistance benefits. The WEP program provides experience, training and job skills to participants who are required to participate in a work activity.



How many hours a week are WEP participants required to work?

The number of hours worked each week is based on the type and amount of Ohio Works First (OWF) and/or food assistance benefits the participant receives.

Who participates in the WEP program?

Individuals, who are eligible for Ohio Works First and/or food assistance benefits, and who are not exempted due to age or certified physical, mental or health issues, are required to participate in the WEP program.

Where do WEP program participants work?

WEP placements are limited to public and private non-profit sponsors that provide a useful public service and there are lots of placement possibilities for WEP participants. Examples include:
Hospitals

- Nursing homes
- Food service establishments
- Sales and marketing firms
- Industrial/residential cleaning companies
- Child care centers
- Offices
- Indoor/outdoor maintenance

WEP may also assign participants to be involved in:

- Internships as part of a training program
- Volunteer work
- Involvement in work assignments at your child's elementary school

Other possibilities include:

- Participating in computer-based training programs
- Doing job market research
- Taking work tutorials
- Participating in job shadowing
- Completing hands-on training for specific job skills

What are the benefits of the WEP program for me?

In addition to receiving your cash assistance and/or food assistance benefits, there are real advantages to participating in the WEP program. These advantages, which can lead to employment, include:

- Broadening your work experience, which looks good on your resume
- Filling employment gaps on your resume
- Gaining experience in different work environments
- Developing new job skills to help you compete successfully in the job market
- Learning how to network
- Strengthening positive work ethics
- Working towards being self-sufficient

