

# **XI. Municipal Work Programs**

## **A. Participation**

Any recipient of general assistance who is able and not gainfully employed may be required to work for the Town of Francestown or an appropriate local human service agency at any available bona fide job that is within his/her capacity (RSA 165:31) for the purpose of reimbursement of benefits received. Participants in the workfare program are not considered employees of the Town of Francestown, and any work performed by workfare participants does not give rise to any employee-employer relationship between the recipient/workfare participant and the Town of Francestown.

## **B. Reimbursement Rate**

The workfare participant shall be allotted the prevailing municipal wage for work performed, but in no case less than the minimum wage. No cash compensation shall be paid for workfare participation; the wage value of all hours worked shall be used to reimburse the Town of Francestown for assistance given. No workfare participant shall be required to work more hours than necessary to reimburse aid rendered.

## **C. Continuing Financial Liability**

If, due to lack of available municipal work or other good cause, a recipient does not work a sufficient number of hours to fully reimburse the Town of Francestown for the amount of his/her aid, the amount of aid received less the value of workfare hours completed shall still be owed to the Town of Francestown.

## **D. Allowance for Work Search**

The Town of Francestown shall provide reasonable time during working hours for the workfare participant to conduct a documented employment search.

## **E. Workfare Program Attendance**

With prior notice to the Public Assistance Administrator, a recipient may be excused from workfare participation if he/she:

1. Has a conflicting job interview;
2. Has a conflicting interview at a service or welfare agency;
3. Has a medical appointment or illness;
4. As a parent or person “in loco parentis,” must care for a child under the age of five. A recipient responsible for a child age five but under 12 shall not be required to work during hours the child is not in school, if there is no responsible person available to provide care, and no other care is available;
5. Is unable to work due to mental or physical disability, as verified by the Public Assistance Administrator;
6. Must remain at home because of illness or disability to another member of the household, as verified by the Public Assistance Administrator; or
7. Does not possess the materials or tools required to perform the task and the Town of Francestown fails to provide them. However, the workfare participant should attempt to schedule appointments so as not to conflict with the workfare program and must notify his/her supervisor in advance of the appointment. The Public Assistance Administrator may require participants to provide documentation of their attendance at a conflicting interview or appointment.

## **F. Workfare Hours**

Workfare hours are subject to approval of the supervisor and the Public Assistance Administrator. Failure of the participant to adhere to the agreed workfare hours (except for the reasons listed above) will prompt review of the recipient’s eligibility for general assistance, and may result in a suspension or termination of assistance. See Section XIII (C)(2)(b).

## **G. Workers Compensation**

The Town of Francestown shall provide workers compensation coverage to participants in workfare programs in the same manner such coverage is provided to other municipal employees, unless the local governing body of the Town of Francestown has voted to adopt a guideline making the provisions of the workers compensation laws not applicable to workfare program participants. RSA 281-A:2, VII(b).