

WORKFARE ORIENTATION

If you need a job to keep getting food stamp benefits: **Working in the workfare program counts as a job.**

While working in the workfare program, you can:

- ◆ Keep getting food stamps.
- ◆ Work on your job skills and learn new skills.
- ◆ Use your workfare job as reference when you apply for paying jobs.
- ◆ Get tips to job openings.

The workfare program is offered through your local Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) office. To start workfare, ask your food stamp worker to set up an appointment with an IWD workfare staff person. Or, you can go directly to your local IWD office and ask to speak to someone about workfare. IWD will find a workfare job site for you. IWD staff will monitor your hours of work and report them to your food stamp worker. While you are working in workfare, IWD can help you find a paying job.

The number of hours that you will work each month will equal the amount of your monthly food stamp allotment divided by minimum wage. For example, if you get \$135 in monthly food stamps, you will be required to work 24 hours at a workfare job site each month. $\$135 \text{ divided by } \$5.15 \text{ (minimum wage)} = 26 \text{ hours per month.}$

\$25 will be mailed to you each month after you show IWD proof that you worked your scheduled hours at your workfare job. The \$25 is to cover the month's transportation costs and other work-related expenses.

Your work site sponsor will:

- ◆ Help you learn new skills and get work experience.
- ◆ Provide equipment, training or instruction for your work assignment.
- ◆ Report your hours of work each month to IWD.
- ◆ Treat you like all other employees.

Your workfare responsibilities are to:

- ◆ Meet with IWD when asked to.
- ◆ Work all scheduled hours unless you have good cause to not do so.
- ◆ Call your work site sponsor immediately if you have a reason that you cannot go to work.
- ◆ Report any problems or concerns about your work site job to your work site sponsor and IWD right away.
- ◆ Treat your workfare job like a regular job.
- ◆ Turn in paperwork IWD asks for.