

Obligations when receiving benefits under the Participation Act

You are receiving a benefit under the Participation Act. We want you to be able to provide for your own income as soon as possible. You have several obligations under the law. The most important ones are the obligation to provide information and the obligation to work. This page explains more about your obligations. We have listed the most common obligations. If you are unsure whether you need to notify us of something, please contact us. Please read this form carefully!

Digital forms can be found at www.hollandskroon.nl. You can also view your annual statements and benefit statements on the website.

Obligation to provide information

You have the obligation to provide information. This includes:

1. Changes in your situation

If your situation changes, such as if someone moves in with you or you find a job, you must notify us digitally within seven days. To this end, please use the form Social Assistance: reporting changes.

2. Cooperation with investigations

You have an obligation to cooperate with investigations. Investigations are used to check whether you are entitled to benefits and are receiving the right amount.

3. Volunteer work or training

If you start volunteer work or follow a training course, you must notify us digitally within seven days. To this end, please use the form Social Assistance: reporting changes.

4. Holiday

If you go on holiday, you must report it before you leave (note: this applies to holidays in the Netherlands and abroad). You must notify us at least four weeks before you leave. You may not travel abroad for more than four weeks (28 days) per year while receiving benefits.

If you are over the statutory retirement age,

you may travel abroad for thirteen weeks per year while maintaining your benefits.

5. Income

If you have income, you must notify us digitally before the 15th of each month. Please include a digital salary or benefit statement. To this end, please use the form Social Assistance: reporting income.

6. Child living at home turns 21

When your child living at home turns 21, you must inform us whether they are a student receiving or eligible for student finance. You must submit this information digitally within seven days. To this end, please use the form Social Assistance: reporting changes.

7. Commutation of pension, inheritance, gifts, etc.

If you receive a commuted pension, an inheritance or gifts, you must notify us digitally within seven days. Please include a specification or other documentation. To this end, please use the form Social Assistance: reporting income.

Obligation to work

You have an obligation to provide for your own income as soon as possible. This means the following:

1.U You must try to find paid work.

To do so, you must:

- Register as a job seeker with UWV WERKbedrijf (the work placement branch of the Employee Insurance Agency) and renew your registration on time (www.werk.nl);
- Check newspapers, internet and UWV job board for job postings;
- Register with multiple employment agencies and regularly inquire about work there;
- Respond to job postings and keep documentation of your responses (you may need to submit this as evidence of your responses);
- Respond to job postings you receive from us.

2. You must do your best during job applications.

This includes doing your best to find, accept and keep your job. You must demonstrate motivation and interest. You must show up to your job interview or at work on time. You must ensure that you look presentable and groomed, with neat and fresh clothing. You must accept any paid work. Do not do things that interfere with obtaining generally accepted employment.

3. Accepting work means that you:

- cannot make demands on the job in terms of education level, type of employment, or pay;

- must be willing to travel for work. You may not refuse work that requires you to travel up to 3 hours each day (1.5 hours there and 1.5 hours back).

4. You must maintain or improve your knowledge and skills as needed to obtain or retain employment.

If you need to take a course to learn the latest techniques or keep your knowledge and skills up to date, you must do so.

5. You must cooperate with investigations; this is an obligation.

During investigations, we look at your options for getting to work and whether you have fulfilled your work obligations.

6. You may be required to perform a quid pro quo.

A quid pro quo, or counter-performance, consists of unpaid work beneficial to society. You must continue applying and looking for work while performing a quid pro quo.

Debt services

If you are having trouble managing your finances or are in debt, we can support you with setting up small payment plans for things like a month's rent or mortgage arrears, but we also provide help with large debts. We also provide budget coaching and courses, set up debt mediation and address underlying problems. Our goal is to get you back to being financially self-sufficient.

In conclusion

Please adhere to these obligations to avoid a reduction or termination of your social assistance benefit, or a fine.

More information

If you have any questions, please contact your district team.

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