

Community Partner Guide 3SquaresVT Work Requirements

Community partners can play a role in assisting Vermonters receiving 3SquaresVT in meeting the work requirement. For more information about the 3SquaresVT work requirement, see [Understanding 3SquaresVT Work Rules](#)

Please see these employment and training program resources available to 3SquaresVT recipients:

- The 3SquaresVT Employment and Training Program: [Individual Career Advancement Network \(ICAN\)](#)
- [Vermont Department of Labor Services](#)
- Start a job search: [Vermont JobLink](#)
- [HireAbility Vermont](#)

We understand that not everyone can work all the time. Some people have a disability, health condition, or personal situation that makes it hard to work. If that is the case, 3SquaresVT recipients can call the Economic Services Division at 1-800-479-6151 to discuss exemptions.

Personal Obstacle or Barrier Exemption & Community Partner Role

The personal obstacle or barrier exemption is one where community partners can assist by completing the 210A form – page 2. The form is used to document why someone is unable to meet work requirements due to their personal obstacle or barrier.

Your role is important. Clear and complete information helps individuals receive the correct exemption without delays and secures their food benefits.

Overview of the 210A Form

The 210A form has two pages. Each page serves a different purpose and may be completed by different people.

- **Page 1:** Disability Determination
 - Completed by Health Care Providers Only
- **Page 2:** Personal Obstacle or Barrier
 - Completed by any Community Partner, including Health Care Providers

The individual decides which exemption they are pursuing.

What is a Personal Obstacle or Barrier

Here are some examples of personal obstacles or barriers. This list is not exhaustive:

- Homeless and does not have access to their basic needs (shower, cooking, water).
- Struggling with education they need for employment.

- A medical issue not yet evaluated by a health care provider.
- Struggling with the loss of a family member or friend.
- Just got out of jail and having a difficult time adjusting.
- Dealing with a domestic violence situation and cannot work right now.
- Unable to drive and no public transportation in the area.

How to Identify a Personal Obstacle or Barrier

Look for observable indicators:

- Physical: broken arm/leg, visible injury
- Mental: confusion, difficulty understanding
- Emotional: grief, crying, agitation, distress

Ask open-ended questions, such as:

- Are you having any problems right now that make it hard to work or look for work?
- Is there something going on in your life that is preventing you from working?
- Do you feel able to work right now, or do you need some time due to personal challenges?
- Is transportation a problem for you right now?
- You reported being homeless—do you have access to basic needs (shower, cooking, water)?
- Are you dealing with a health issue that makes it hard to work right now?
- Do you have a medical issue you haven't been able to see a doctor about yet?
- Are you having difficulty returning to work after a recent release from jail?
- Is learning English or understanding job instructions making work difficult?
- Are you dealing with a situation at home that makes it unsafe or hard to work?

Completing Page 2: Personal Obstacle or Barrier

Who Can Complete Page 2

Page 2 may be completed by any community partner, including a health care provider, who is familiar with the individual's situation, including:

- ICAN case managers
- Housing case managers
- Department of Corrections staff
- Other service providers working closely with the individual

When to Use Page 2

Complete Page 2 when the individual:

- Is unable to work due to a personal obstacle or barrier, and
- Does not meet the disability definition, or more information is needed.

Complete the Form by Identifying

- Your agency (Question 1)
- If the individual has a personal obstacle or barrier (Question 2)
- Length of time the barrier is anticipated to last
- Description of the barrier, and
- Your contact information and signature at the bottom.

After the Form Is Completed

- Return the completed form to the individual. They should submit it to ESD in person, by mail or electronically through the [ESD Uploader](#)

Questions or Help

If you have questions about completing the 210A form, contact ESD for guidance 1-800-479-6151.