**DATE: January 20, 2022**

**OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #22-01-02**

**SUBJECT:** Changes to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) Eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Diversion Recipients

**TO:** Executive Directors

**FROM:** Robert Patrick

Acting Director

 Bureau of Operations

**PURPOSE**

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) of changes to SNAP E&T rules for TANF Diversion recipients effective January 1, 2022.

**BACKGROUND**

TANF Diversion is an alternative to ongoing TANF. Diversion covers a short-term financial gap when a household's earned income temporarily stops or decreases. The goal of Diversion is to “divert” the household from the immediate crisis and the need for ongoing TANF benefits.

The SNAP E&T program is a voluntary program available to all adults who receive SNAP, but do not receive cash assistance. Per SNAP HB 535.1, policy currently prohibits individuals in a TANF Diversion period from enrolling in SNAP E&T.

**DISCUSSION**

The federal Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has issued new guidance permitting states to allow individuals who are in a period covered by TANF Diversion benefit to receive SNAP E&T. Effective January 1, individuals who are receiving SNAP and are in a TANF Diversion period may volunteer to participate in the SNAP E&T program if otherwise eligible for referral (see: [SNAP Handbook 535.1](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/snap/535_SNAP_Employment_and_Training/535_1_General_Policy.htm)).

Individuals who receive ongoing TANF benefits remain ineligible to participate in the SNAP E&T program and will instead participate in the Road to Economic Self-Sufficiency through Employment and Training (RESET) program (see: [Cash Handbook 135.1](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/cash/135_Employment_and_Training_Requirements/135_1_The_Road_to_Economic_Self-Sufficiency_Through_Employme.htm)).

Changes were made to eCIS in the December 2021 release which allow the CAO to select SNAP ETP Code 30 or 40 for a SNAP recipient in a TANF Diversion benefit period who volunteers to participate in SNAP E&T. The CAO should continue to select SNAP ETP Code 12 for SNAP recipients in a TANF Diversion benefit period who do not volunteer to participate in SNAP E&T.

SNAP recipients in a TANF Diversion benefit period who volunteer to participate in SNAP E&T may receive Special Allowances (SPALs) if otherwise eligible (see: [SNAP Handbook 535.4](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/snap/535_SNAP_Employment_and_Training/535_4_Work_Requirements.htm)). All E&T SPALs must be issued under the SNAP budget.

The Diversion Agreement Form ([PA 1793; Attachment 1](https://pagov.sharepoint.com/sites/DHS-OIM/Attachments/Attachment%201-%20Diversion%20Agreement%20Form.pdf)) has been updated to reflect this change in policy.

**NEXT STEPS**

1. Share and review this information with appropriate staff members.

2. Direct questions regarding this Operations Memorandum to your Area Manager.

3. This Operations Memorandum is in effect until further notice.

**ATTACHMENT**

Attachment 1: [Diversion Agreement Form](https://pagov.sharepoint.com/sites/DHS-OIM/Attachments/Attachment%201-%20Diversion%20Agreement%20Form.pdf)