

**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](#)).

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](#)).

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](#)). All E&T SPALs must be issued under the SNAP budget.

The Diversion Agreement Form ([PA 1793; Attachment 1](#)) 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](#)