

# Operations Memorandum - SNAP/Food Stamps OPS090602

June 16, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Extended Food Stamp (EFS) Benefit Expansion  
**TO:** Executive Directors  
**FROM:** Joanne Glover, Director, Bureau of Operations

## Purpose

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) of the following policy that will be effective August 1, 2009.

- EFS will be expanded to include mixed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/food stamp households when the household members that receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) all leave TANF.
- EFS eligibility will be expanded to include all TANF closing reason codes except those listed in [Appendix A \(attached\)](#).

## Background/Discussion

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, regulations at 7CFR §273.12(f)(4) allow a state the option to provide households EFS, effective June 2002. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 incorporated these regulations into law and expanded the requirements and options if a state elects to provide EFS to families leaving TANF. Pennsylvania revised EFS policy to comply with the requirements of the law in November 2003.

As of August 1, 2009, the new EFS policy will expand to include all households leaving TANF except those which are barred by federal law. The new EFS policy will also apply to SNAP households that contain both TANF and non-TANF members.

<b>Old EFS Policy:</b> The SNAP household is eligible for EFS if:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ All eligible members of the SNAP household are eligible members of the TANF (C or U) budget(s) at the time of TANF closing; and</li><li>▪ TANF was closed for certain income-related reasons.</li></ul>
<b>New EFS Policy:</b> The SNAP household is eligible for EFS if:

- TANF closes for all members of the SNAP household that receive TANF; and
- TANF closes for any reason other than those reason codes listed in Appendix A.

The Client Information System has been programmed to automatically open EFS when TANF closes under the circumstances listed above.

Examples:

1. A TANF mother is receiving SSI for her child. The mother obtains a part-time job and is no longer eligible for TANF. The SNAP household is now eligible for EFS, even though it contains a member who is not a TANF member.
2. The only child in a TANF household turns 18 and graduates from high school in June. The household is no longer eligible for TANF. The household is entitled to EFS and EFS continues for the full five months.

**NOTE:** If a household has a change in circumstances during the EFS period that they believe will increase their SNAP benefits, the household may request to complete a renewal. When a household reports a change, the CAO must complete a determination with CAFOOD to see if a renewal will benefit the SNAP household. The worker will then inform the household of whether a renewal would raise the household's SNAP benefit. If the household benefits from leaving EFS and requests a renewal, the CAO will complete a renewal. The CAO must narrate the request for renewal.

Example:

A household is receiving EFS because TANF was closed as a result of voluntary request. The mother gives birth to twins, and requests that the children be added if her SNAP benefits will go up. The worker runs a CAFOOD and sees that a renewal would be beneficial to the family because the SNAP benefit would increase. The household is informed and requests a renewal. The CAO completes a renewal with the household and narrates that a renewal was requested before the expiration of the EFS period.

**Note:** The use of the reason codes in Appendix A to close TANF will prevent the household from receiving EFS. Using an appropriate code for closing TANF benefits is necessary to ensure that households receive EFS when they qualify.

## **Next Steps**

1. Review this information with appropriate staff.
2. Contact your Area Manager with any questions.
3. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete when the information contained herein is incorporated into the Handbook.