

Operations Memorandum - SNAP/Food Stamps

OPS090702

July 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Expansion of Categorical Eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households
TO: Executive Directors
FROM: Joanne Glover, Director, Bureau of Operations

Purpose

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) that Categorical Eligibility (CE) for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is expanded to include families at 160 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIGs). This policy is effective July 27, 2009.

Background/Discussion

Operations Memorandum 08-09-05, dated October 1, 2008, expanded CE through the provision of a TANF-funded service, the "Help for Pennsylvanians in Need" brochure, to all SNAP applicant and recipient households with income at or below 130 percent of the FPIGs.

The Department of Public Welfare has opted to raise the gross income limit for receipt of the brochure from 130 percent to 160 percent of the FPIGs.

New CE Policy

Effective July 27, 2009, households that do **not** have any elderly or disabled household members and have income at or below 160 percent of the FPIGs, and are otherwise eligible, qualify for CE.

Reminder:

- No net or resource test applies to CE households. See handbook chapter 512.1
- All eligible households of one or two persons that pass the gross income test of 160 percent or 200 percent (elderly/disabled members in the household) qualify for the minimum SNAP benefit of \$16.
- A three or more person household that passes the gross income test of 160 percent or 200 percent (elderly/disabled member in the household), and is entitled to receive a \$0 allotment are not eligible.

Income Eligibility Standards

Household Size	100% FPIGs	130% FPIGs	160% FPIGs	200% FPIGs
1	\$867	\$1127	\$1387	\$1734
2	\$1167	\$1517	\$1867	\$2334
3	\$1467	\$1907	\$2347	\$2934
4	\$1767	\$2297	\$2827	\$3534
5	\$2067	\$2687	\$3307	\$4134
6	\$2367	\$3077	\$3787	\$4734
7	\$2667	\$3467	\$4267	\$5334
8	\$2967	\$3857	\$4747	\$5934
9	\$3267	\$4247	\$5227	\$6534
10	\$3567	\$4637	\$5707	\$7134
Each Additional Member	+\$300	+\$390	+\$480	+\$600

The Revised values will be added to the CIS Reference Table..

System Changes

The Client Information Systems (CIS) will be updated to reflect the gross income of 160 percent of the FPIGs or 200 percent of the FPIGs for elderly/disabled households. All system changes as a result of expanded CE implementation will be addressed in a CIS Daily Status.

Next Steps

1. Review this information with your staff.
2. Direct questions to your Area Manager
3. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete when the information contained herein is incorporated into the FS handbook.