

DATE: April 22, 2015

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #15-04-03

SUBJECT: Eliminating the Resources Test for Categorically Eligible Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Households

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Inez Titus
Acting Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To inform CAOs that, effective April 27, 2015, the Department of Human Services will eliminate the resource test for Categorical Eligibility (CE) applicant and recipient SNAP households.

BACKGROUND

- [Ops Memo 080905](#) Provides initial background and frequently asked questions for expanding CE to all households not having a disqualified member and not exceeding:
 - 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIGs) for a household without an elderly (age 60 or older), or disabled member.
 - 200 percent FPIGs for a household with an elderly or disabled member.
- [Ops Memo 090702](#) further expanded CE to include otherwise eligible households that do not have a disqualified, elderly or disabled household member and have income at or below 160 percent of the FPIGs.
- [Ops Memo 120405](#) modified CE to impose a resources test for SNAP applicant and recipient households.
- Regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(j)(2)(i)(c) provide the option to modify expanded CE to include a resource test for applicant and recipient SNAP households.

DISCUSSION

Effective April 27, 2015, policy and system changes will take effect to remove the resource test for all expanded categorically eligible households. SNAP applications/SARs/Recertifications received and processed before April 27, 2015 will have a resource test applied. SNAP applications/SARs/Recertifications received before April 27, 2015, but not processed until after, will not have a resource test applied.

There is no change to SNAP households with all SSI, cash assistance, or Family Works members. These households do not have SNAP income or resource tests. There remains no gross income test for elderly/disabled households. Elderly/disabled households with gross income above 200 percent of the FPIGs remain potentially eligible for SNAP if they pass the net income test. Many such households may qualify for the minimum benefit.

NOTE: For Expedited SNAP, the CAO must review resources to determine eligibility for expedited services, but verification is not required.

Please see the chart below for a summary of changes.

Household Type	Income Limit	Resource Limit
Households having an Elderly/Disabled member, but not a disqualified/sanctioned member	200 percent FPIG	No Resource Limit
Households not having an Elderly/Disabled member and not having a disqualified/sanctioned member	160 percent FPIG	No Resource Limit
Households having an Elderly/Disabled member with income <u>above</u> 200 percent FPIGs	100 percent FPIG (net test)	\$3,250
Households with an Elderly/Disabled member and a disqualified/sanctioned member	130 percent FPIG	\$3,250
Households with a disqualified/sanctioned member	130 percent FPIG	\$2,250

Reminders:

- Expanded CE Eligible SNAP applicant/recipient households receive the brochure “Help for Pennsylvanians in Need.” The following households do not qualify for Expanded CE:
 - Elderly/disabled households with income above 200 percent of the FPIGs;
 - Households not having an elderly/disabled member and have income above 160 percent of the FPIGs;
 - Households whose head of household is currently disqualified for failing to comply with employment and training requirements;
 - A household that has an Intentional Program Violation (IPV) that currently results in the disqualification of a household member.
- No net or resource test applies to CE households. See SNAP Handbook Section 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; or
- 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 is not eligible.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share this information with all staff.
2. Direct all questions to your Area Manager.
3. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete when the information is incorporated into the SNAP Handbook.
4. This Operations Memorandum obsoletes [OPS 120405](#).