

Policy Clarifications - SNAP PFS16211-512

Submitted: 06/2012

Agency: CAOs

Citations:

Subject: Expanded Categorically Eligible SNAP Households

The Department of Public Welfare expanded categorical eligibility (CE) to additional households beginning October 1, 2008 and provided direction to the field with OPS Memo 08-09-05. This OPS identifies specific households who are not eligible to receive expanded categorical eligibility (ECE) under federal regulation. They are:

- Elderly/disabled households with income above 200 percent of the FPIGs.
- Households whose head of household is currently disqualified for failing to comply with employment and training requirements, or
- A household that has an intentional Program Violation (IPV) that currently results in the disqualification of a household member.

We have a case where a household member is disqualified for a parole/probation violation. At the SAR review, the system applied the net test to the household income and closed the SNAP budget. As disqualification for parole/probation violation is not one of the listed exclusions from ECE participation, we feel that this may be incorrect. Should the SNAP budget be reopened?

Response By: DFPPM

Date:06/04/12

No, do not reopen the SNAP budget. The system is operating correctly.

Regulations found at 7 CFR §273.2(j)(2)(ii) allow the State, at its option, to extend categorical eligibility to certain participating households. Pennsylvania does not extend categorical eligibility to households having a member who is disqualified for any reason. These households will be subject to the standard SNAP regulations for eligibility determination.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. SNAP Handbook Chapter 512 will be updated to reflect this guidance.