

**Policy Clarification**  
**Employment and Training- All**  
**EPP-22538-535**  
**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - All**  
**PFS-22538-536**

**Submitted: June 30, 2026**

**Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training Program (ETP) and Qual Codes for Pregnant Individuals**

- Questions:**
- 1. Which SNAP ETP and Qual Codes should the County Assistance Office (CAO) assign to a pregnant individual? Does this apply regardless of the trimester?**
  - 2. Is SNAP ETP Code 10 still in use? I cannot find it in the Electronic Client Information System (eCIS).**
  - 3. Are pregnant SNAP recipients exempt from work registration and/or Pennsylvanians with Employment and/or Engagement Requirements (PEERs) work requirements?**
  - 4. Must the CAO verify pregnancy for SNAP work requirements?**

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**Response By: BEP**

**Date: June 30, 2026**

1. There is no single correct SNAP ETP Code for *all* pregnant individuals. The CAO will assign the most appropriate SNAP ETP Code based on the individual's circumstances.

The CAO will assign SNAP Qual Code 4 to a pregnant individual, unless SNAP Qual Code 22, 2, and/or 3 also applies. SNAP Qual Code 4 can be used in any trimester.

2. Effective May 18, 2026, SNAP ETP Code 10 was retired and may no longer be selected in eCIS. Workers will need to update the SNAP ETP Code for individuals who were previously assigned SNAP ETP Code 10 in all workflows.

The [SNAP Work Requirement Desk Guide](#) has been updated to reflect the removal of SNAP ETP Code 10.

3. Pregnancy does not automatically exempt someone from work registration. The CAO must screen the individual for all other potential exemptions from work registration at application and renewal.

**NOTE:** If the individual quits their job or reduces work effort, the CAO must take special care to screen for good cause and unsuitable employment situations that disproportionately affect pregnant people during the compliance review process.

A pregnant individual is exempt from PEER work requirements for the entire month once the pregnancy is reported to the CAO. The CAO must manually remove the month from the PEER clock if necessary (see: [SNAP Handbook \(HB\) 536.11](#)). The exemption lasts for the entire certification period and may extend into (a) subsequent certification period(s) if the individual is still pregnant at renewal.

4. No. For SNAP PEER exemption purposes, the CAO may accept the individual's statement that they are pregnant unless questionable.

### **Example 1**

Sally (34) applies for SNAP benefits in August reporting on her application that she lives with her son, William (seven), and that she is currently pregnant (due in October) and unemployed. After confirming this information during her interview, the CAO processes her SNAP application using SNAP ETP code 30 (Non-Exempt) and Qual Code 22 (Resides in a SNAP household with a child under the age of 14).

### **Example 2**

Brenda (28) renews her SNAP benefits in December, reporting that she continues to live by herself and work as a waitress at Ed's Diner 30 hours per week, but is now pregnant in her first trimester. The CAO assigns Brenda SNAP ETP Code 17 (Weekly earnings of at least minimum wage times 30 or works at least 30 hours per week) and Qual Code 3 (Meets Federal SNAP ETP Codes 04, 12, 14, 17, 20, or 21).

In February, Brenda reports that she quit her job because her manager shifted her to back-of-house work against her wishes after finding out she was pregnant. When Brenda asked him about it, her manager pointed at her belly and screamed "customers don't want to see *that!*" This discrimination created a hostile work environment, meaning Brenda has good cause for quitting her job. The CAO will not sanction Brenda and will update her codes to SNAP ETP Code 30 and Qual Code 4 (Pregnant).

**NOTE:** Pregnancy-based discrimination is a type of sex-based discrimination.

### **Example 3**

Carmella (23) submits a SNAP application reporting she lives by herself and is pregnant with no income. During the application interview, Carmella clarifies that she lives with her parents, but she is responsible for her own food. The CAO assigns Carmella SNAP ETP Code 30 and Qual Code 4.

**NOTE:** After the babies in Examples 1, 2, and 3 are born, the CAO will update Sally, Brenda, and Carmella's SNAP ETP Codes to 18 (Cares for a child under age six) and Brenda and Carmella's Qual Codes to 22 during the newborn add process.

**Citations:** [SNAP HB 535.3](#), [SNAP HB 536.2](#), [SNAP HB 535.61](#), [7 CFR 273.7\(b\)](#), [7 CFR 273.24\(c\)](#)