

DATE: September 30, 2022

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #22-09-05

SUBJECT: Increasing the Income Limits for Expanded Categorically Eligible (CE) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Households

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Robert Patrick
Acting Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To inform County Assistance Offices that the expanded CE for SNAP income limit is increasing to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) for all households. This policy is effective October 1, 2022.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

- Operational Memorandum (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 FPIG for a household without an elderly (age 60 or older), or disabled member.
 - 200 percent of the FPIG 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.

Effective October 1, 2022, policy and system changes will take effect to increase the income limit to 200 percent of the FPIG for all expanded categorically eligible households.

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:

- Households with income above 200 percent of the FPIG;
 - **Exception: There is no gross income test applied in the system for elderly/disabled households. Elderly/disabled households with gross income above 200 percent of the FPIG remain potentially eligible for SNAP if they pass the net income test and the resource test (\$4,250 starting October 1, 2022).**

Elderly/disabled households with gross income above 200 percent FPIG are not expanded categorically eligible; therefore, if they fail the net income test or the resource test, they are not eligible for SNAP benefits, even if the household size is one or two persons.

- 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 that currently results in the disqualification of a household member.
 - Households that fail to comply with Semi-Annual Reporting requirements.
 - Households with members that violate conditions of Probation or Parole under a federal or state law.
- All eligible households of one or two persons that pass the gross income test of 200 percent qualify for the minimum SNAP benefit;
 - A three or more-person household that passes the gross income test of 200 percent and is entitled to receive a \$0 allotment is not eligible. There is no minimum benefit requirement for households of three or more persons.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share this information with all staff.
2. Direct all questions to your Area Manager.
3. Since the changes in this Ops Memo have already been incorporated into the handbook, this OPS Memo will be obsoleted on December 31, 2022.