

# Operations Memorandum - SNAP OPS120405

April 19, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Modification of the Asset Limit for Categorically Eligible Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Households  
**TO:** Executive Directors  
**FROM:** Richard Wallace, Acting Director, Bureau of Operations

## Purpose

To inform CAOs that, effective May 1, 2012, the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) will modify components of Categorical Eligibility (CE) to impose a resource test for applicant and recipient SNAP households.

## Background

- [Ops Memo 080905](#) initially expanded 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.
- 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 May 1, 2012, policy and system changes will take effect to impose a resource test for all expanded categorically eligible households. SNAP applications received before May 1, 2012 will not have an asset test applied even if they are processed after May 1, 2012.

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.

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	\$9,000
Households not having an Elderly/Disabled member and <b>not</b> having a disqualified/sanctioned member	160 percent FPIG	\$5,500
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	\$2,000

**NOTE:** The change from \$3,000 to \$3,250 was implemented October 1, 2011 as a result of the Farm Bill of 2008.

System changes will automate these modified requirements at the next household application, renewal, or Semi-Annual Review (SAR) on or after the effective date of May 1, 2012. Should a change be reported after May 1, 2012, but before the next SNAP renewal or SAR review, which would result in a system EDBC run, the SNAP household will be required to provide verification of countable resources at that time as a condition of eligibility.

Please refer to SNAP Handbook Chapter 540 for counted/excluded resources.

**Reminders:**

- Expanded Categorically 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 with 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 090702](#)