

Policy Clarification

Food Stamps – All - PFS-21852-506

Submitted: July 3, 2024

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Certification Period Clarification

Question: When employment ends in the month of application, and zero income is projected in the case record, should the County Assistance Office (CAO) assign a six-month or a 12-month certification period?

Response By: DFPPM

Date: July 24, 2024

The household is not expected to have any additional income during the months to come and \$0 was projected; therefore, the client should be assigned a six-month certification period.

7 CFR § 273.10(c)(2)(i) says “Income anticipated during the certification period shall be counted as income only in the month it is expected to be received, unless the income is averaged.” The CAO projected \$0 income for the foreseeable future, so it should be a six-month certification period.

NOTE: If the household no longer receives earned or unearned income, the certification period does not change. Per 7 CFR § 273.10(f)(4) there are very specific reasons to shorten a certification period, and loss of income or change in employment status alone is not a reason to shorten the certification period.