

Policy Clarification

Employment and Training- All - EPP-22329-535

SNAP- All - PFS-22329-535

Submitted: October 27, 2025

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Regaining Eligibility After Exhausting Three Months of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Question: Can Pennsylvanians with Employment or Engagement Requirements for SNAP (PEERs) “regain eligibility” by proving they *have* met the work requirement in a past month, proving that they *will* meet the work requirement in the coming month, or do they have to prove both?

Example 1: A PEER subject to the SNAP work requirement used their three countable months in September, October, and November. On January 15, they reapply and verify that they *will* be working 20 hours per week starting that week but have not worked 80 hours in the month yet. Have they regained eligibility?

Example 2: A PEER subject to the SNAP work requirement used their three countable months in September, October, and November. On January 15, they reapply and verify that they *did* work 80 hours in the month of December as a mall Santa but are no longer working. Have they regained eligibility?

Response By: BEP

Date: October 27, 2025

Yes, both individuals have regained eligibility. There are two different ways an individual can receive SNAP after exhausting their initial three countable months; both are described as “regaining eligibility” in [SNAP Handbook 536.25](#).

Regaining Ongoing Eligibility

An individual may regain **ongoing** eligibility by:

- Verifying that they *have already* met the work requirement in the past 30 days and expect to continue to do so moving forward; *or*
- Verifying that they *will* meet the work requirement in the next 30 days.

The County Assistance Office (CAO) will assign SNAP Qual Codes 5, 6, or 7 to these individuals, depending on how they expect to meet the work requirement (work, work program, or workfare).

These individuals may also be assigned SNAP Employment and Training Program Code 17 and SNAP Qual Code 3 if their wages are equal to at least 30 times the minimum wage per week.

Individuals who are *already* meeting the work requirement may verify they have regained eligibility by providing paystubs or similar documentation showing they have met the work requirement in the most recent 30 days. The CAO may consider this as proof the individual will *continue to* meet the work requirement unless the CAO has other information that the individual will no longer meet the work requirement moving forward.

Individuals who have not yet met the work requirement but *will* do so within 30 days, such as the individual in Example 1 above, must provide verification as follows:

- **Work:** Verification (e.g., a PA 1897 or representative first pay) showing that they will work at least 80 hours in the next 30 days and/or start earning weekly wages of at least \$217.50/week in the next 30 days.
- **Employment and Training (E&T):** Accept a referral to a SNAP E&T program and complete and sign an Employment Development Plan pledging to participate 80 hours per month in SNAP E&T.
- **Other Work Programs:** Verification from the other work program (e.g., Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I) that they will participate 80 or more hours in the next 30 days.
- **Community Service:** Verification (e.g., a PA 1938) that they will meet their required hours in the next 30 days.

The CAO will advise the individual that they are required to report if they fail to actually meet the work requirement in the following 30 days, as well as if they stop meeting the work requirement at any point in the future.

If the individual does not meet the work requirement in the first 30 days after being re-opened, the CAO will close the case (or remove the individual from the household) and process an overpayment for the month the individual did not comply.

Exception: If an individual is referred to E&T and participates to some extent in the next 30 days, but does not meet the work requirement, the contractor will term the individual. The CAO will follow the process for provider determinations in [OPS 23-08-04](#) and will not process an overpayment.

If the individual meets the work requirement in the first 30 days after being re-opened but later stops meeting the work requirement and does not meet any exemption, the CAO will review to determine if the individual regained eligibility on a one-time basis (see below).

Citations: [7 CFR §273.24\(d\)\(1\)](#); [7 CFR 273.2\(f\)\(1\)\(xiv\)](#); [7 CFR 273.12\(a\)\(5\)\(iii\)\(G\)\(2\)](#)

Regaining Eligibility on a One-Time Basis (EB-21)

Federal rules also provide a second set of three countable months to PEERs who use up their original three countable months, start meeting the work requirement for at least 30 days, and then **stop** meeting the work requirement. This rule would apply to **Example 2** above.

The CAO would assign Qual Code 21 to the individual. Qual Code 21 is limited to being used once in a three-year period and must be issued as a Non-Continuous Eligibility covering a period of three consecutive months.

NOTE: When reviewing an application for EB-21, the CAO must consider all months between the month the PEER used their last month of EB-20 and the month of application. If the PEER verifies that they met the work requirement in *any* such 30-day period (whether or not they were receiving SNAP at the time), they are eligible to regain eligibility under EB-21.

Citation: [7 CFR §273.24\(e\)](#)