

Policy Clarifications - SNAP

PFS15990576

Submitted: 11/09/11

Agency: CAOs

Citations:

Subject: **Cash/MA/SNAP Budget Alignment**

Policy clarification [PFS13938576](#) directs CAOs that SNAP certification periods may not be shortened at redetermination or renewal for Cash or Medical Assistance (MA) in order to align case budgets. Is this policy still in effect?

[OPS Memo 050710](#) is also referenced in the policy clarification above and gives CAOs *the option* to complete a SNAP renewal when a given household applies for Cash or MA benefits and it is perceived to be beneficial to the applicant household. Is the option to align budgets still at the CAO's discretion?

Response By: Division of Federal Programs

Date:11/09/11

No, these policies are no longer in effect.

The Department has received approval from Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to process SNAP renewals along with other benefit programs. There is no need to reinstate the original SNAP certification period after processing. SNAP certification periods can be shortened, but may not be lengthened.

In order to lessen the burden and increase efficiencies for both the client and Department, effective immediately, CAOs must align all budgets that can be aligned, (with exception of those budgets discussed in [OPS110701](#) that are recognized exceptions to this requirement), at the next application, SAR, renewal or reported change resulting in an eligibility determination.

As a reminder, case narrative must be entered that discusses the actions taken and eligibility decisions made at every application, SAR, renewal, reported change and written or verbal contact with the client.

This clarification obsoletes PFS 12725-576, PFS 12848-576 and PFS 13938-576. The SNAP Handbook will be updated to reflect this policy.