

Policy Clarification
Employment and Training- All - EPP-22326-535
Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program- All -
PFS-22326-535

Submitted: October 27, 2025

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Caring for a Non-Household Member and Drug and Alcohol Treatment Exemptions from the Pennsylvanians with Employment or Engagement Requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (PEERs) Work Requirement

Question: 1) Can someone be eligible for the PEERs exemption for caring for an ill or incapacitated person if the person they are taking care of does not live in the same household? Does the care recipient need to receive SNAP?

Example: A 55-year-old woman receiving SNAP helps her elderly mother who has Parkinson's disease to cook her meals, bathe, get to and from doctor's appointments, and several other activities of daily living. She does not live with her mother but regularly travels to her mother's senior living apartment several times per week to provide care. Is she eligible for an exemption?

2) Does a regular participant in a drug or alcohol treatment program need to provide documentary verification of their exemption, or can the County Assistance Office (CAO) accept their statement unless questionable?

Response By: BEP

Date: October 27, 2025

- 1) Yes. Federal regulations only require the individual receiving the exemption to be part of a SNAP household. The individual being cared for does not need to be related to the caregiver, be in the same SNAP household (or any SNAP household at all), or live at the same address.

In the example provided, the SNAP recipient is exempt because she is regularly providing care to her incapacitated mother. The CAO will assign SNAP Employment and Training Program (ETP) Code 4 and SNAP Qual Code 3. The CAO will accept the client's statement as verification unless questionable.

NOTE: If a SNAP recipient is paid to provide care, the CAO will treat the care as paid work rather than an exemption. If a SNAP recipient provides care at no cost to a person who is not incapacitated, the CAO will treat the care as unpaid work rather than an exemption. Hours of paid or unpaid work count toward meeting the 20 hour per week work requirement and must be verified.

Citations: [7 CFR §273.7\(b\)\(1\)\(iv\)](#); [7 CFR §273.24\(c\)\(5\)](#)

- 2) The CAO can accept their statement unless questionable. Federal rules require verification of disability or inability to work (unless obvious), but not for individuals who are regular participants in a drug or alcohol treatment program.

The CAO will continue to require verification when using SNAP ETP Code 3 and Qual Code 2 for disability but must not require verification when using those codes for someone participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program.

NOTE: If an individual suffers from addiction, but is not regularly participating in a treatment program, the CAO must request verification that their condition makes them unfit for employment (e.g. using the [PA 1921](#)) unless the inability to work is obvious to the CAO.

Citations: [7 CFR §273.7\(b\)\(1\)\(vi\)](#); [7 CFR §273.24\(c\)\(5\)](#); [7 CFR §273.24\(l\)](#)