

**Policy Clarification
SNAP
PFS-18971-560**

Submitted: 06/18

**Agency: CAOs
Citations: SNAP**

Subject: Medical Marijuana being used as a medical expense deduction for SNAP.

Since Medical Marijuana is now legal in Pennsylvania can it be used as a medical expense deduction for SNAP?

Response By: Division of Federal Programs

Date: 6/13/18

No. Based on guidance received from Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), medical marijuana cannot be used as a medical expense deduction for SNAP. The guidance issued by FNS states that a household may not utilize the SNAP medical deduction for the cost of any substance considered illegal under Federal law.

Under the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 801 et seq., marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance that has no currently accepted medical use and cannot be prescribed for medicinal purposes. SNAP is a Federal program and must conform to Federal law regarding illegal substances. Therefore, marijuana and other Schedule I controlled substances are not "allowable medical expenses" under Federal law.