



SNAP/FOOD STAMP EXPANDED CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY

SNAP available to more people at higher incomes

Beginning July 1, 2009 -

- The gross income limit will increase to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for most SNAP households;
- Most SNAP households will no longer be subject to an asset test; and
- Most SNAP households will no longer be subject to a net income test.

Here's how Expansion of Categorical Eligibility works:

Beginning July 1, 2009, DSS is creating a new program called, *"Help for People in Need"*. The new program is funded by TANF and consists of an informational brochure that will refer clients to programs that will help them.

A person with an income limit of 185% of the federal poverty level¹ will be eligible for the program *"Help for People in Need"*, and is "categorically eligible" for SNAP upon receiving the brochure. There is no asset limit or net income test for *"Help for People in Need"*.

Anyone who is eligible for *"Help for People in Need"* is categorically eligible for SNAP and gets at least the minimum benefit amount of \$16.00. Households with 1-2 people whose income is less than 185% of the FPL are guaranteed a minimum benefit of \$16.00, however households of 3 or more people MAY NOT QUALIFY for any benefit at all.

Technically, the gross income limit for SNAP remains at 130% of the FPL. However, the fact that eligibility for the TANF-funded brochure confers categorical eligibility for SNAP effectively increases the income limit for SNAP to 185% of FPL and eliminates the asset test.

DSS will do the mass mailing of the brochure to all active SNAP households early in July. After that, DSS will mail a copy to each newly granted SNAP household and to each SNAP household who has completed their redetermination of eligibility and remains eligible.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Alert your clients, friends and family that they may be eligible for SNAP if they were over the income limit or asset limit – please call EHC!'s Toll Free SNAP line at 866-974-SNAP or check out eligibility at www.ctfoodstamps.org.

Please note:

The *only* households for whom there will still be an asset test and a net income test are those elderly/disabled households whose gross income exceeds 185% of FPL. Those households are technically not eligible for *"Help for People in Need"* (although DSS will still mail them a brochure) are therefore not categorically eligible for SNAP. The asset test of \$3,000 and the net income test will apply to these households, again because they are not categorically eligible for SNAP

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<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/NR/rdonlyres/euajdslqceilix3xfew5ai6wpypmsm6oohw2brlps2pveizf5djhtfkeh57psaoprjmggjssbygmh4ufdk7mbq4ymf/Fed+Poverty+Guidelines+2009+Annual-Weekly.pdf>

