The Research Packet For

THE SNAP TASK FORCE

Meeting of September 19, 2019

Prepared by the staff of Food Bank For New York City
39 Broadway, 10th Fl.
New York NY 10006
Tel: 212.566.7855
Fax: 212.566.1463
www.foodbanknyc.org
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE

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I. United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Proposes to Close SNAP Automatic Eligibility Loophole


WASHINGTON, July 23, 2019 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today proposed closing a loophole that allows states to make participants receiving minimal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits automatically eligible to participate in USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The proposed rule published today in the Federal Register would limit SNAP/TANF automatic eligibility to households that receive substantial, ongoing TANF-funded benefits aimed at helping families move towards self-sufficiency. The proposed rule would fix a loophole that has expanded SNAP recipients in some states to include people who receive assistance when they clearly don’t need it. In fact, the depth of this specific flexibility has become so egregious that a millionaire living in Minnesota successfully enrolled in the program simply to highlight the waste of taxpayer money. This proposal gives USDA the ability to save billions of dollars, ensuring nutrition assistance programs are delivered with consistency and integrity to those most in need.

USDA encourages all interested parties to provide input on the proposed rule through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). The comment period will be open for 60 days.

USDA Nutrition Benefits and Public Charge: Effect on Immigrant Status


This webpage will be updated soon to reflect the changes from the Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds Final Rule, scheduled to become effective Oct. 15, 2019.

Nutrition Benefits and Public Charge: Effect on Immigration Status Getting nutrition assistance through the FNS does not make an immigrant a "public charge". That is, an immigrant to the United States will not be deported, denied entry to the country, or denied permanent status because he or she receives food stamps, WIC benefits, free and reduced price school lunches or other nutrition assistance from FNS.

USDA Empowers States to Improve SNAP Administration with Modern Technologies

[Link to原文](https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/fns-001219)
WASHINGTON, August 21, 2019 – Today, the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced a new pair of administrative flexibilities that enable states to leverage modern technologies in their efforts to deliver Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits with improved customer service and integrity.

By utilizing modern technology, our state partners can continue to advance innovation in the administration of SNAP,” said Brandon Lipps, USDA’s Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. “These flexibilities allow states to employ new solutions to run their programs in ways that are more effective, efficient, and accurate.”

II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Updated Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Standards for October 2019


In compliance with federal requirements 7 CFR 273.9(a)(3), effective October 1, 2019, the SNAP standards will be as follows:

The standard deduction amounts that will be used in the annual SNAP mass re-budgeting for October 1, 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Standard Deduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6+</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum allotment for one and two-person households will increase to $16.

Maximum Excess Shelter Deductions:
- Homeless Shelter Deduction: $569 (increase)
- Boarder/Lodger Exclusion: $152.06 (increase)
- $194 (increase) for 1 person or $355 (increase) for 2 persons

There will be no change to the amounts of the Heating/Air Conditioning Standard Utility Allowance (The Phone SUA will remain unchanged)
The New Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) thresholds are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Monthly Gross Income for HH Without Senior / Disabled Members (based on 130% FPL)</th>
<th>Monthly Gross Income for HH with Earned Income (based on 150% FPL)</th>
<th>Monthly Gross Income for HH With Child / Dependent Care Costs (based on 200% FPL)</th>
<th>Maximum SNAP Allotment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,354</td>
<td>$1,562</td>
<td>$2,082</td>
<td>$194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1,832</td>
<td>$2,114</td>
<td>$2,818</td>
<td>$355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$2,311</td>
<td>$2,667</td>
<td>$3,555</td>
<td>$509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$2,790</td>
<td>$3,219</td>
<td>$4,292</td>
<td>$646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$3,269</td>
<td>$3,772</td>
<td>$5,028</td>
<td>$768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$3,748</td>
<td>$4,324</td>
<td>$5,765</td>
<td>$921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$4,227</td>
<td>$4,877</td>
<td>$6,502</td>
<td>$1,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$4,705</td>
<td>$5,429</td>
<td>$7,238</td>
<td>$1,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each Add’l Person</td>
<td>+$479</td>
<td>+$553</td>
<td>+$737</td>
<td>+$146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exemption from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Abled body adults without dependent (ABAWD) requirements for individuals in receipt of Workers Compensation - July 30, 2019


The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to inform social services districts (districts) of recent clarification from the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) regarding the Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) status of an individual who is receiving Worker’s Compensation benefits. Based on clarification provided by FNS, individuals who are receiving Worker’s Compensation benefits are exempt from ABAWD requirements, regardless of the percentage of disability rating. SNAP recipients, including those individuals concurrently

1 Federal poverty level (FPL) is determined annually by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
2 Earned income includes recurring payments from work sources, such as wages or earnings from self-employment
3 An aged/disabled household is exempt from the Gross Income Test, but is subject to a Resource Test and Net Income Test if the household income exceeds 200% FPL
4 As of October 1, 2019, the current minimum SNAP benefit is $16
receiving Temporary Assistance, who are receiving Worker’s Compensation benefits should be assigned an ABAWD indicator code of “N” (Non-ABAWD)

Monthly Caseload Statistics – June 2019


Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This Month</th>
<th>Change From Last Month</th>
<th>Change From Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,623,177</td>
<td>-19,273 (-0.7%)</td>
<td>-146,650 (-5.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$359,534,896</td>
<td>-$2.4 mil (-0.7%)</td>
<td>-$18.2 mil (-4.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2
TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS
June 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Family Assistance-FP</th>
<th>Safety Net Assistance</th>
<th>Supplemental Security Income</th>
<th>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York State</td>
<td>474,208</td>
<td>177,138</td>
<td>297,070</td>
<td>673,418</td>
<td>2,623,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>323,176</td>
<td>104,222</td>
<td>218,954</td>
<td>402,744</td>
<td>1,523,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of State</td>
<td>151,032</td>
<td>72,916</td>
<td>78,116</td>
<td>270,674</td>
<td>1,099,675</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. New York City Human Resources Administration

Memorandum – August 28, 2019 – Expansion of the Interactive Voice Responses System (IVRS)

This Center Director Memorandum is being issued to inform non Cash Assistance (NCA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) center staff that the offer to recertify for SNAP benefits via the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) has been expanded to include households in which all adults are aged 55 or older or disabled and who have no earned income.

Previously, recertification via IVRS was offered to NCA SNAP household in which all adults are aged 60, older, or disabled and who have no earned income.

Policy Bulletin # 19-41-ELI – August 08, 2019 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Income Exclusions

This policy bulletin has been revised to include the following to the list of income, which is excluded in determining the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) household income:

• Monies withheld or returned to repay prior overpayments from the same source.
• Any funds received by individuals 55 and older under the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) of Title V of P.L. 100-175, the Older Americans Act of Information provided to staff to inform them about what items are excluded from the SNAP household income. Some common exclusions are: monies withheld or returned to repay prior overpayments from the same source; funds received by individuals over 55 from the Senior Community Service Employment Program, any allowances, payments, or earnings for any individuals serving under Title I of the National Community Service Act of 1990, which includes AmeriCorps; educational grants, scholarships, and loans; other volunteer exceptions, child support payments, and reimbursements.

Memorandum – July 24, 2019 – SNAP PC Bank and Self-Service Scanning at St. Nicholas Job Center

The St. Nicholas SNAP Center officially closed June 28, 2019. Former participants of that center are able to use the Self-Service equipment for their SNAP cases at the St.
Nicholas Job Center (132 West 125th Street, on the 2nd floor). HRA staff will be available to assist Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 5 PM.

The Job Center #18 will offer applicants/participants the following services:

- **Front Door Reception (FDR)** HRA staff member will route applicants/participants to the PC Bank;

- **Self-Service Scanners** will allow applicants/participants to submit requested SNAP documents; and

- **Personal Computer Banks (PC Banks)** will allow applicants/participants to submit a SNAP Application/Recertification form, Periodic Report, or submit a case change using the ACCESS HRA website.

HRA staff will be on site to help with these services.

HRA staff will be available to help applicants/participants use ACCESS HRA on their mobile phone.

If the applicant/participant requests to submit a paper SNAP Application/Recertification form at Job Center #18, an HRA staff member will take it for them and send it to their SNAP center for processing. The applicant/participant then must call **718 SNAP NOW** (718-762-7669) within seven days to have the interview.

### IV. Reports, News and Notable Items

**The Food Research & Action Center Files Amicus Brief Opposing Public Charge Rule**


**WASHINGTON, September 13, 2019** – The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), the nation’s leading anti-hunger advocacy organization, today joined the National Housing Law Project and the Center for Law & Social Policy (CLASP) in filing an amicus brief in five jurisdictions to oppose the implementation of the Trump administration’s public charge rule. The groups, represented by Keker, Van Nest & Peters, LLP, note in the brief that the Trump administration’s radical expansion of the public charge rule would damage the well-being and economic stability of immigrants and communities across the country. The rule is slated to take effect on October 15 unless Congress or the courts act to stop or delay it.

This rule would increase hunger and poverty across the nation, and force immigrant families — including those with U.S. citizen children — to make impossible choices between food and family,” said Jim Weill, president of FRAC. “The intended effect of this rule counters everything that this nation stands for by
instilling fear and making it tougher for immigrant families — particularly families of color and low-income families — to enter and stay in the U.S. legally and to access programs that safeguard their nutrition, health care, housing, and economic security”

NYC Department of Social Services – Important Information about Public Charge


As you know, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently published a final rule concerning public charge in the federal register. This means that the Trump Administration is making it harder for some immigrants to get green cards or certain types of visas if they use, or may be likely to use, certain public benefits and programs. This is not in effect yet, and will not be in effect until October 15, 2019.

Over the past few months, the Mayor, City agency leaders, and DSS have been speaking out in opposition to this now final rule. The City, along with New York State, Connecticut, and Vermont, recently sued the Trump Administration over this rule, challenging its attempt to target immigrants of color, immigrants with disabilities, and low-income immigrants.

We continue to tell HRA staff that there have been no changes to the rules or laws regarding eligibility for public benefits and to accept applications from all New Yorkers who come to us seeking assistance. All staff have been told to refer any clients with questions about how the receipt of public benefits may affect their immigration status to ActionNYC. At 311 – 800-354-0365
Legal Services Referral Information

Questions about how accessing public benefits may impact your immigration status?

For information, call the New Americans Hotline, operated by Catholic Charities at 1-800-566-7636, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday to Friday. The hotline is free and anonymous. Help is available in over 200 languages.

To meet with an immigration legal services provider, call ActionNYC at 1-800-354-0365, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday.

Call 311 to find emergency food assistance near you.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

[Link]

President Trump’s Department of Homeland Security today released a rule that makes extensive and deeply troubling changes in our nation’s immigration policies. The rule will deny a broad set of individuals who are lawfully present in the United States and trying to build a life for themselves and their families the ability to become permanent residents. It will deny many others the ability to enter our country legally if they’re not wealthy. The rule reflects a dark vision of the United States — as an unwelcoming nation that wants to keep out people who seek to join their family, work hard, and climb the economic ladder — based on the erroneous assumption that they won’t contribute to our communities, our economy, and our nation. The rule, which directs immigration officials to reject applications from individuals who seek to remain in or enter the country if they have received — or are judged more likely than not to receive in the future — any of an extensive array of public benefits that are tied to need, will make it much more difficult for many immigrants in the United States lawfully to remain here and for many seeking legal entry to come.

Hunger Solutions New York

Tell the Administration –Again: It is Unacceptable to take Food Away from Working Families, Children, seniors and People with Disabilities.

[Link]
Aug 1, 2019: Food assistance is at risk—again. Just months after Congress and the Administration debated and reauthorized SNAP through the Farm Bill, the Administration is now proposing to implement, through executive action, a second SNAP benefits cut by eliminating Broad Based Categorical Eligibility.

The current policy of Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (or Cat El) allows states to eliminate the SNAP asset test, and use a slightly higher income test so that more working families, families with children, seniors and people with disabilities with significant housing and dependent care expenses can still qualify for SNAP.

New York is one of 40 states that effectively uses this option to ease the benefit cliff for working households; allow families, seniors, and people with disabilities to maintain modest savings without losing SNAP food assistance; and make it easier and more cost effective to administer SNAP in our state.

By eliminating these options, the proposal would take away SNAP benefits for 3.1 million individuals nationwide. What’s more, if a SNAP household with school-age children loses benefits, those children would lose automatic eligibility for free school meals, placing additional financial burden on parents and increased risk for food-insecurity on vulnerable children.

USDA must receive comments on or before September 23, 2019

How to Comment

✓ Links to national organizational comment portals.
Feeding America • http://bit.ly/FASNAPcatelcomments
FRAC https://www.frac.org/catelcomments

Offers comment templates for different sectors

✓ Comment platform for individuals:

HandsOFFSNAP.org
✓ Go to Regulations.gov to post comment directly

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
SNAP's "Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility “Support Working Families and those Savings for the Future
https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/snaps-broad-based-categorical-eligibility-supports-working-families-and

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the nation’s largest food assistance program, generally operates under a consistent set of federal eligibility rules. But one policy area that results in differences in income and eligibility rules across states is “broad-based categorical eligibility” (BBCE), which enables states to raise SNAP income eligibility limits somewhat so that many low-income working families that have difficulty making ends meet, such as because they face costly housing or child care expenses that consume a sizeable share of their income, can receive help affording adequate food. This policy also lets states adopt less restrictive asset tests so that families, seniors, and people with a disability can have modest savings without losing SNAP.[1]