

Department of Public Health  
and Human Services

Section:  
NONFINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM (SNAP)

Subject:  
EXPANDED CATEGORICAL  
ELIGIBILITY (ECE)

**Supersedes:** SNAP 304-2 (09/01/10)

**References:** 7 CFR 273.2(j); 7 CFR 273.8(e)

GENERAL RULE -- TANF Information and Referral (I & R) Services is a TANF funded brochure with information and referrals to other various agencies, programs, organizations, and community resources that can benefit the entire household. The Office of Public Assistance (OPA) provides all households with the brochure. By receiving the brochure the household is considered to be receiving a TANF service and may be eligible for expanded categorical eligibility (ECE). This includes elderly, disabled, and childless individuals because the brochure is designed to educate and serve all individuals in the community who want to use the services.

**EXPANDED  
CATEGORICALLY  
ELIGIBLE**

All expanded categorically eligible households including households with an elderly or disabled household member must pass a gross income test of 200% of the federal poverty level (SNAP 001) and a net income test of 100% of the federal poverty level (SNAP 001).

**NOTE:** When a household with an elderly or disabled member coded 'IN' on FS SEPA does not pass the ECE gross income test, eligibility is determined under regular program rules without a gross income test and with a resource limit of \$3000.

Resources for expanded categorically eligible individuals and households are excluded.

Expanded categorically eligible households with three or more members passing the gross monthly income (GMI) and net monthly income (NMI) tests but who are not eligible for a benefit amount are denied or closed. All eligible one and two person households are entitled to the minimum \$16 allotment.

**EXCEPTION:** If due to proration during the initial month the benefit is less than \$10, no benefit is issued for the initial month.

**ECE WITH  
INELIGIBLE  
HOUSEHOLD  
MEMBERS**

Households with the following ineligible household members are expanded categorically eligible:

1. Ineligible students; coded 'OU' on FS SEPA;

2. Ineligible aliens; coded 'DS' with 'IA' as disqualification reason on FS SEPA;
3. Ineligible able-bodied adult without dependents code 'DS' with 'AB' as disqualification reason on FS SEPA;
4. Ineligible due to failing or opting not to provide a social security number; coded 'DS' with 'IS' as disqualification reason on FS SEPA and;
5. Ineligible due to work registration disqualification (not signing the HCS-543A, Work Registration form or job termination without good cause); coded 'DQ' with 'WR' as disqualification reason.

**HOUSEHOLDS NOT  
EXPANDED  
CATEGORICALLY  
ELIGIBLE**

The following households are not expanded categorically eligible:

1. The entire household residing in an institution.
2. The entire household is disqualified from SNAP.
3. A member is disqualified for any of the following reasons:
  - a. intentional program violation;
  - b. fleeing felon or probation/parole violation;
  - c. convicted of receiving duplicate benefits;
  - d. convicted of trading benefits for weapons, ammunition, explosives, or drugs;
  - e. convicted of buying or selling benefits of \$500 or more; or,
  - f. convicted after 08/22/96 of a federal or state felony for possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs.

EXPANDED CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY CHART		
SNAP Participation Code (SEPA Screen)	Household Expanded Categorical Eligible (ECE)	
	Yes	No
IN	X	
OU	X	
SH	X	
DS (with any DQ reason)	X	
DQ/WR	X	
DF/IF		X
DQ/FF		X
DQ/DR		X
DQ/OT		X