

Operations Bulletin 2016-5 Cross Program: Eligibility of Strikers for TAFDC, EAEDC or SNAP Benefits

A strike has been called by unionized workers of Verizon. The Department anticipates a potential increase in the number of applications for TAFDC, EAEDC and/or SNAP benefits at local TAOs.

Definition of Striker

A striker is an individual involved in a strike or concerted stoppage of work by employees, including a stoppage by reason of the expiration of a collective bargaining agreement, and any concerted slowdown or other interruption of operations by employees. See 106 CMR 203.920 for TAFDC and 106 CMR 361.240 for SNAP.

IMPORTANT: For EAEDC, there is no policy prohibiting strikers who are otherwise eligible from receiving EAEDC benefits.

TAFDC Application Containing Strikers

When a case containing a striker applies for TAFDC, the case manager must:

- deny the application if the striker is the parent or the only child in the case. Use Reason Category: *Program Rules* and Reason: *Striker*; and
- open the TAFDC case without the striker if the striker is anyone other than a parent or the only child in the case

SNAP Applications Containing Strikers

When a household containing a striker applies for SNAP benefits, the case manager must determine if the household:

- was eligible to participate the day before the strike; and
- is otherwise currently eligible.

How to Count Striker Income at Application

If the SNAP case is otherwise eligible, the case manager must determine the striker's income as follows:

- compare the striker's monthly income on the day before the strike with the income, if any, received during the strike;
- count the greater of the two incomes; and
- add this to any other income the striker may have, plus the income of other household members.

Note: If the household is determined to be ineligible the application must be manually denied using an SNAPNL-2. The reason for denial is *failure to comply with SNAP requirements for striker eligibility*. See 106 CMR 361.240(E)(2).

Ongoing SNAP Households Containing Strikers

If the household is currently otherwise eligible, it will likely remain eligible. The striker's monthly income on the day before the strike must be compared to income, if any, received during the strike. The higher of the two income amounts must be used.

IMPORTANT: This is an exception to Simplified Reporting rules.