

The Daily Blurb

'Blurb' 26: Multiple Expedited Benefits

A reminder about Expedited Benefits...

When it comes to administering SNAP benefits, assessing a client's immediate needs and issuing expedited benefits is an important part of the application process. While screening and issuing expedited benefits are both simple processes, there is some lingering confusion about the frequency of expedited issuances. One question that comes up very often is "Can we give expedited benefits to a client more than once in a calendar year?"

The answer to that is **YES**.

If a client's case closes during the certification period due to a program rule, the client may reapply as a new application and may be eligible for expedited benefits once again, if they meet at least one of the three expedited criteria. Also, if the client applied for SNAP benefits, was issued expedited benefits, then provided *all* verifications and was processed for that application (regardless of whether they were approved or denied) s/he may receive expedited benefits at reapplication, if eligible.

Example: Ben applies for SNAP benefits in January and is screened for expedited. Since his income and assets were lower than his shelter costs, Ben was issued expedited benefits and later approved for an on-going benefit a few days later after submitting his verifications. In March, Ben informs the department that he is moving to California for work and would like his case closed. In June, Ben returns to Massachusetts due to a lay off and wishes to apply again. Since Ben had provided all verifications for the previous application, and he meets one of the expedited eligibility criteria, Ben is issued another expedited benefit even though one was already issued earlier in the year.

In August Ben reports that he has returned to work, submits his new paystubs and is determined to be over the gross income limit and his case is closed. In November, Ben reports he lost his job in October due to his employer going out of business and wishes to apply again. If Ben meets one of the expedited eligibility criteria, Ben must be issued another expedited benefit.