



Supplemental
Nutrition
Assistance
Program

SNAP Simplified Reporting

DTA Training Unit

Today's Objectives

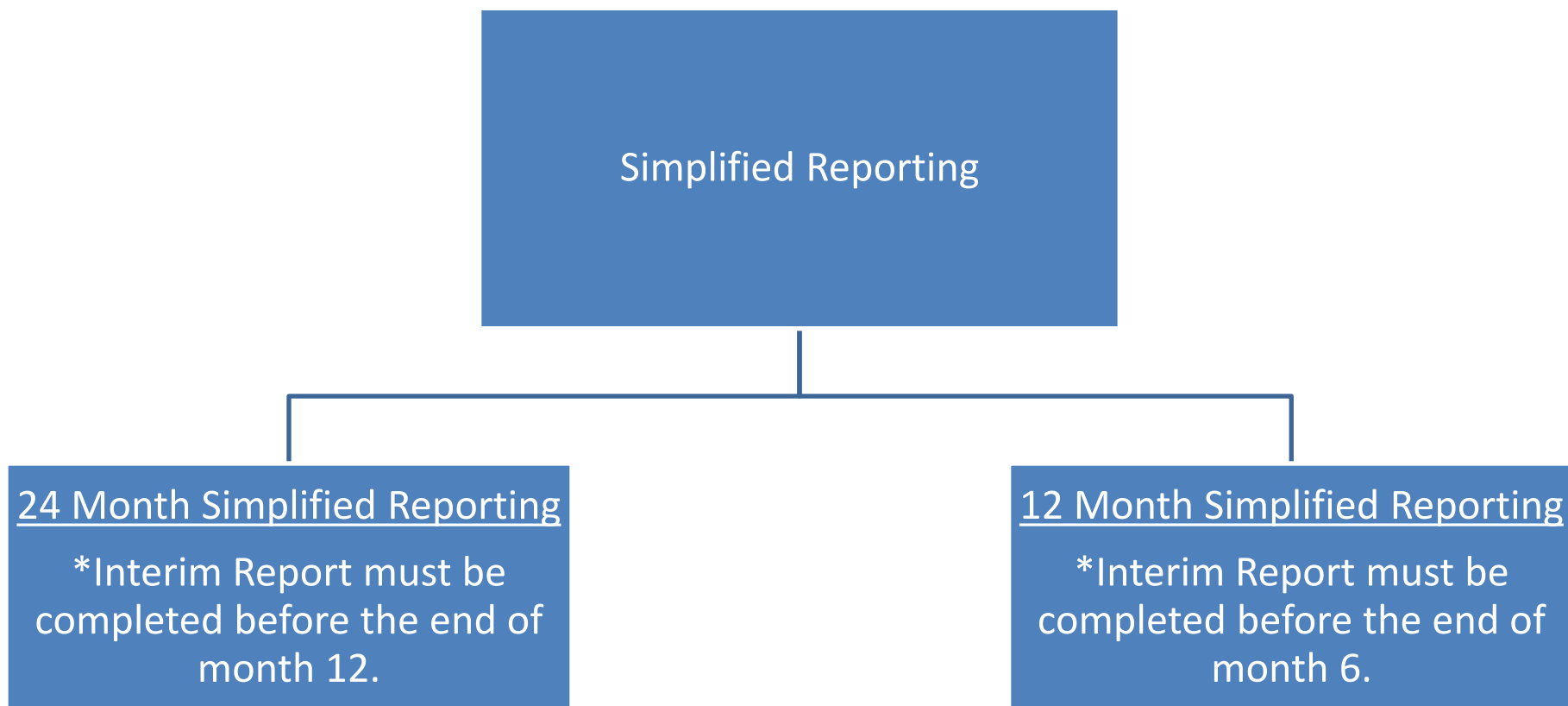
1. Review conversion criteria for Simplified Reporting - 24 Months
2. Discuss how certification end dates are established
3. Review Interim Reporting and Recertification timelines

What is Simplified Reporting?

1. Simplified Reporting is a recertification type that allows for varying certification periods and reduced reporting requirements for SNAP households.
2. 12 Month Annual Reporting cases fall under the Simplified Reporting umbrella. In the future, Annual Reporting cases will be referred to as Simplified Reporting – 12 Months (SIMPI2).

Extending Simplified Reporting

Effective with BEACON Build 48.1 (scheduled for deployment on November 23, 2015) an extended reporting period entitled Simplified Reporting – 24 Months (SIMP24) will be added under the Simplified Reporting umbrella.



Cases Converting to Simplified Reporting – 24 Months (SIMP24)

Households that meet the following criteria will be automatically converted to SIMP24:

1. The household has unearned income only
2. All households members are elderly (age 60 or over) or disabled (federally certified regardless of age)
3. If there are children in the household, they are younger than 16 years
4. The household was recertified between May 1, 2015 and November 22, 2015

Certification End Dates

1. Households previously assigned to 24 Month Recertification, will retain the same end date if their case is automatically moved over to SIMP24.
2. Eligible households previously assigned to 12 Month Recertification or 12 Month Annual Report will have their end date extended up to 24 months (counting from the start date of their current certification period).

Certification End Dates: Example # 1

HH of 2. Grantee has a SSN that ends in 0. Husband and wife are both 65 years old. They are U.S. Citizens. Both elderly and disabled. Both collecting SSI. No sources of earned income. Pays rent, full SUA. Declined ADA accommodation. Already registered to vote.

1. At application the HH was originally assigned to 24 Month Recertification, with a certification end date of September 30, 2015.
2. On September 1, 2015 the case is reviewed and found eligible for ongoing SNAP. The HH is recertified as a 24 Month Recertification case with a certification period ranging from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2017.
3. Since the case meets the conversion criteria, on November 23, 2015 the case will be automatically converted to SIMP24. The HH's previously established certification period of October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2017 will be preserved. The HH will receive a notice informing them of their certification period and new reporting requirements.

Certification End Dates: Example # 2

HH of I. Grantee has a SSN that ends in 0. Grantee is 55 years-old and a U.S. Citizen. Grantee is disabled and collecting RSDI disability payments. He has a part-time job at Dunkin Donuts. Pays rent, full SUA. Declined ADA accommodation. Already registered to vote.

1. At application the HH was originally assigned to 12 Month Annual Reporting, with a certification end date of August 31, 2015.
2. On August 1, 2015 the case is reviewed and found eligible for ongoing SNAP. The HH is recertified as a 12 Month Annual Reporting case with a certification period ranging from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.
3. However on September 12, 2015 the client verified that he lost his job and provided a letter of termination. The earned income record is removed and the client's SNAP benefit is adjusted. The client only has unearned income and remains on Annual Reporting at this time.

Certification End Dates: Example # 2

continued...

4. Since the case meets the conversion criteria, on November 23, 2015 the case will be automatically converted to SIMP24. In this scenario, the HH's prior certification period of September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016 will be adjusted. The certification end date will be extended another 12 months to August 31, 2017 (in doing so a 24 month certification period is established for this case). The client will receive a notice informing him of his new certification period and new reporting requirements.

Ongoing Recertification

After November 23, 2015 households who fit the SIMP24 criteria (See slide 5. Points # 1-3) will be assigned a new 24 month certification period when an EBC request is authorized and released at:

1. Application
2. Recertification
3. Reinstatement of an Application or Recertification

These certified households will then receive a standard EBC notice informing them of their:

1. Benefit Amount
2. Certification Period
3. Reporting Requirements

Households Excluded from SIMP24

The following households are excluded from Simplified Reporting:

1. Households certified as Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA)
 - 5 Month Recertification
2. Bay State CAP Households
 - 36 Month Recertification
3. Public Assistance (PA) SNAP/Cash Combo Households
 - 12 Month Recertification

The following households will not be automatically converted to SIMP24 on 11/23/15:

1. Households that have outstanding mandatory verifications
 - Varied certification periods
2. Households that have available/reviewed scanned documents
 - Varied certification periods
3. Households with an outstanding match on the Program Integrity Checklist
 - Varied certification periods

Mandatory Reporting Requirements for AR and SIMP24

Annual Reporting Cases

1. The HH's total income rises above the relevant Maximum Gross Income Standard.
2. The HH adds a new member whose income raises the HH's total income above the relevant Maximum Gross Income Standard.

Simplified Reporting – 24 Months Cases

1. SIMP24 cases are not subject to the Gross Income Standard. Reported changes in household composition, income, and expenses will affect a benefit change if the information comes from a verified upon receipt source or has the potential to increase the client's benefit level.

Information that is Verified Upon Receipt

- The removal of a child from a household due to state agency action
- Information that a household member is also receiving SNAP in another state
- Intentional Program Violation (IPV) resulting in disqualification
- Information that a household member has a SNAP disqualification in another state
- Incarceration of a household member
- Death of a household member
- Change in the cash benefit amount for combination cases
- Information that a HH member has moved out

General Overview of IR Timeline For Simplified Reporting Cases

1. 45 days before the end of month 6 or 12, an Interim Report is sent out to the client.
2. If the Interim Report is not initiated in BEACON within 19 days of the form being sent out, then a warning notice will be generated.
3. The case will automatically close by the end of month 6 or 12 if the Interim Report is not returned and processed by the release date.

Discontinued Notice: Interim Report Thank You Notice

General Overview of Recertification Timeline For Simplified Reporting Cases

1. 45 days before the end of month 12 or 24, an Annual Report or SIMP24 Recertification form is sent out to the client.
2. The case will automatically close by the end of the certification period if the Annual Report or SIMP24 Recertification form is not returned and processed by the release date.



ABAWD Work Program

DTA Training Unit

Today's Objectives

1. Review ABAWD Work Program Requirements and Time Limited Benefits
2. Discuss ABAWD Work Program Exemptions
3. Review the ABAWD Implementation Plan

Background

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) limits the receipt of SNAP benefits to three months in a three year time frame for nonexempt able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs).

Massachusetts has operated under a statewide waiver of the ABAWD Work Program requirement and the suspension of SNAP Time Limited Benefits since June 2008.

However, the statewide ABAWD waiver will expire December 31, 2015.

ABAWD Work Program Requirements

To comply with the ABAWD Work Program, nonexempt ABAWDs between the ages of 18-49 must meet one of the following conditions:

1. Work 20 hours per week (averaged monthly); or
2. Participate in a qualifying Employment and Training activity for 20 hours per week; or
3. Volunteer at a community service site for up to 19 hours per month

Time Limited Benefits

1. Nonexempt ABAWDs are entitled to SNAP benefits for 3 months in a 36 month time frame without complying with the ABAWD WP requirements.
2. To continue receiving SNAP benefits beyond the 3 months, nonexempt ABAWDs must comply with the ABAWD WP requirements.
3. An ABAWD who lost benefits due to nonparticipation may regain eligibility if he/she:
 - Works 80 hours in a 30 day timeframe.
 - Participates in E&T activity for 80 hours in a 30 day timeframe.
 - Volunteers for a specified number of hours in a 30 day time frame.

Verification of this participation must be submitted before a case can be restored.

Exemptions to the ABAWD WP

- Meets TAFDC/EAEDC Requirement
- Under age 18 or age 50 or over
- Noncitizen Disqualified
- Ineligible Household (HH) Member
- Resident of a Waived Area
- Unfit for Employment – Disabled
- Residing with a person < 18
- Pregnant Woman
- Unfit for Employment – ABAWD Medical Report
- Employed at least 30 hrs/wk

Exemptions to the ABAWD WP

- Student – at least Half-Time
- UC Applicant/Recipient
- Unfit for Employment – Temporary Disabled
- Unfit for Employment – Based on Screening
- Caretaker of Incapacitated Person
- Addict/ Alcoholic in Treatment
- Unfit for Employment – Obvious
- 15% Exemption
- ABAWD Waiver → ABAWD WP Required as of 01/01/16

ABAWD Population

1. DTA estimates that up to 25,000 SNAP clients are potentially subject to the ABAWD Work Program and SNAP Time Limited Benefits.
2. DTA has developed two forms to help ABAWDs claim and document exemptions.
 - Request for ABAWD Work Program Exemption
 - Revised ABAWD Work Requirement Medical Report

(These two forms can be generated through BEACON)

Timeline of Events

August 2015

- DTA began operating a voluntary SNAP E&T program
- ABAWD pop-up reminder for case managers to enter exemption information on SNAP clients
- Expansion of E&T sites
- DTA working with advocate community to plan for reimplementation of ABAWD WP and SNAP Time Limited Benefits.

September 2015

- Application for geographic waiver submitted to FNS
- Some ABAWD forms finalized
- Continued to work with advocate community

Timeline of Events

October 2015

- Recruitment of community service sites

November 2015

- BEACON build auto-flips clients to most permanent work program exemptions using information that is known to system
- Scheduled mailings for potential ABAWDs
- Will be holding stakeholder meetings
- Continued recruitment of community service sites

Timeline of Events

December 2015

- More mailings and robo-calls
- Continued expansion of E&T sites and community service sites

January 2016

- ABAWD WP reinstated
- Participation tracking begins

April 2016

- First ABAWD noncompliance closings take affect in BEACON

ABAWD Notices

1. ABAWD Work Requirements Notice
2. ABAWD Work Program Exemption Notice
3. ABAWD Work Program Community Service Report
4. ABAWD Warning Notices (Strike 1 and Strike 2)
5. ABAWD Closing Notice for Noncompliance