

Food Stamp Program Changes: EBT and Food Stamp Disaster Program

FS

State Letter 1260

This State Letter transmits the following changes to Food Stamp Program policy:

EBT Changes:

- The Department no longer requires finger imaging of the individual authorized to transact the household's food stamp benefits.
- Food stamp benefits will no longer be inactivated after 90 days but will remain in the EBT account for 270 days after which time benefits will be permanently purged.
- Food stamp benefits will no longer be converted to cash when recipients move out of the state.

Food Stamp Disaster

- The Food Stamp Disaster Program Maximum Gross Monthly Income and Asset Standard table has been added to regulations.

FYI

EAEDC Applicants/Recipients and the SSI Application Process

A recent review of EAEDC AUs found that some EAEDC recipients who may be eligible for SSI do not have a pending application/reapplication/appeal on file. Policy states that, as a condition of EAEDC eligibility, an applicant or recipient **MUST** apply for SSI and cooperate in the SSI application/reapplication/appeal process (see 106 CMR 320.200(B)).

If, at any time, the recipient fails to comply with the SSI application/reapplication/appeal process, action must be taken to close the recipient.

AU Managers are reminded:

- 1) to follow up with applicants/recipients who have an appointment to apply for SSI to ensure that the appointment has been kept and the application process has started;

- 2) to ensure that a recipient who has been disabled for a total of 12 months or more submits an application for SSI benefits. The 12 month disability period can be either a single 12 month disability period or separate disability periods that total 12 months;
- 3) to have the recipient verify that the SSI application has been denied and verify that an appeal has been filed;
- 4) to follow up with EAEDC recipients who were previously denied SSI due to their noncitizen status to see if there is a change in their noncitizen status or more up-to-date work history information which may make them currently eligible for SSI.

In addition to reducing Department costs, encouraging applicants/recipients to apply for and follow through with the SSI process ensures a greater cash benefit for the recipient once the SSI is approved.

