

N.J.A.C. 10:87

This file includes all Regulations adopted and published through the New Jersey Register, Vol. 51 No. 11, June 3, 2019

New Jersey Administrative Code > TITLE 10. HUMAN SERVICES > CHAPTER 87. NEW JERSEY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NJ SNAP) MANUAL

Title 10, Chapter 87 -- Chapter Notes

Statutory Authority

CHAPTER AUTHORITY:

N.J.S.A. 30:1-12.

History

CHAPTER SOURCE AND EFFECTIVE DATE:

Effective: December 16, 2015.

See: 48 N.J.R. 137(b).

CHAPTER HISTORICAL NOTE:

Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was adopted as R.1969 d.22, effective December 3, 1969.
See: 1 N.J.R. 14(a), 1 N.J.R. 30(b).

Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was readopted as R.1972 d.177, effective September 8, 1972.
See: 4 N.J.R. 187(a), 4 N.J.R. 239(a).

Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was readopted as R.1975 d.350, effective January 1, 1976.
See: 7 N.J.R. 363(b), 7 N.J.R. 567(d).

Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was readopted as R.1979 d.29, effective March 1, 1979. See:
10 N.J.R. 537(b), 11 N.J.R. 76(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was readopted as
R.1984 d.68, effective March 1, 1984. See: 15 N.J.R. 2134(b), 16 N.J.R. 550(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was readopted as
R.1989 d.121, effective January 27, 1989. See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Public Notice: Change in standards for food stamp income eligibility. See: 23 N.J.R. 3030(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was readopted as R.1994 d.42, effective December 21, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 4697(b), 26 N.J.R. 377(a).

Public Notice: Change in standards for food stamp income eligibility, deduction, and coupon allotment standards. See: 29 N.J.R. 4346(a).

Subchapter 13, New Jersey State Food Stamp Program, was adopted as Emergency New Rules by R.1997 d.402, effective August 29, 1997, operative September 1, 1997, to expire October 28, 1997. See: 29 N.J.R. 4191(a). The provisions of R.1997 d.402 were readopted as R.1997 d.505, effective October 28, 1997. See: 29 N.J.R. 4191(a), 29 N.J.R. 5063(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was readopted as R.1999 d.6, effective December 8, 1998. See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was readopted as R.2004 d.181, effective April 5, 2004. See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was readopted as R.2009 d.94, effective February 19, 2009. As a part of R.2009 d.94, Subchapter 9, Certification Related Procedures, was renamed Certification-Related Procedures, effective March 16, 2009. See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

Subchapter 4, Financial Eligibility; Resources, was repealed and Subchapter 4, Resource Applicability, was adopted as new rules by R.2010 d.027, effective January 19, 2010. See: 41 N.J.R. 3190(a), 42 N.J.R. 482(b).

Subchapter 4, Resource Applicability, was repealed, and Subchapter 4, Financial Eligibility; Resources, was adopted as new rules by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012). See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

Chapter 87, Food Stamp Manual, was renamed New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP) Manual by administrative change. See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1b, Chapter 87, New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP) Manual, was scheduled to expire on February 19, 2016. See: 43 N.J.R. 1203(a).

Chapter 87, New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP) Manual, was readopted, effective December 16, 2015. See: Source and Effective Date.

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§ 10:87-1.1 Purpose of NJ SNAP

The NJ SNAP is designed to promote the general welfare and to safeguard the health and well being of the population by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

Section was "Purpose of Food Stamp Program". Substituted "NJ SNAP" for "Food Stamp Program".

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§ 10:87-1.1A Abbreviations/acronyms defined

As used in this chapter, the following abbreviations and/or acronyms shall have the following meanings, unless otherwise individually specified.

"ABAWDS" means able-bodied adults without dependents.

"CWA" means county welfare agency.

"DCS" means disregarded child support.

"DFD" means the New Jersey Division of Family Development, in the Department of Human Services.

"EBT" means electronic benefits transfer.

"FAMIS" means the Family Assistance Management Information System.

"FNS" means the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service.

"GA" means the New Jersey General Assistance program.

"HCSUA" means the Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowance.

"HUD" means the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"IEVS" means the Income Eligibility Verification System.

"IPV" means intentional Program violation.

"LWD" means the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

"NJ SNAP" or "Program" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"NJ SNAP ETP" means the NJ SNAP Employment and Training Program.

"NPA" means non-public assistance.

"PA" means public assistance.

"SACWIS" means the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System.

"SSI" means Supplemental Security Income.

"TANF" means the New Jersey Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

"USCIS" means the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"USDA" means the United States Department of Agriculture.

"WFNJ" means the New Jersey Work First New Jersey Program.

History

HISTORY:

New Rule, R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

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§ 10:87-1.2 Administration of the Program

(a)The Program is authorized by the U.S. Congress and regulated by the USDA. In New Jersey, the CWAs are responsible for certifying eligible households and arranging for benefit issuance outlets. Only persons employed by a CWA are legally empowered to enroll applicants in the Program.

(b)Although the counties directly administer the Program, the State is ultimately responsible for ensuring that program operations conform with Federal laws and USDA regulations.

(c)The county administration of the NJ SNAP is supported by a centralized computer management information system to comply with the requirement for keeping uniform system of records and accounts throughout the State. CWAs have access to the management information system that performs routine clerical tasks, determines eligibility status, calculates the NJ SNAP allotment, generates NJ SNAP benefits, and management and fiscal reports. This automated system expedites implementation of policy changes, eliminates duplication of effort, and allows for efficient updating of information.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (c), substituted a reference to food stamps for a reference to coupons, and substituted a reference to benefits for a reference to Authorizations to Participate in the second sentence.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (a), substituted "benefit" for "coupon" preceding "issuance outlets".

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (a), substituted "USDA" for "U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)", "CWAs" for "county welfare agencies (CWAs)" and "Program" for "program"; and in (c), substituted "NJ SNAP" for "Food Stamp Program".

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-1.3 Legal basis of the Program

Policies and procedures for the administration of the Program are derived from the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. §§ 2011 et seq.) and current FNS, regulations and instructions (which are uniform nationwide).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

Rewrote the section.

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§ 10:87-1.4 Program informational activities

(a)The Division of Family Development (DFD) will supply CWAs with posters and pamphlets concerning nutritional information, and, where available, explanations of Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) explanations. CWAs shall directly display the posters and make the pamphlets available at all NJ SNAP and public assistance offices.

(b)CWAs shall inform participant and applicant households of their program rights and responsibilities. The information may be provided through whatever means DFD deems appropriate.

(c)The CWAs shall provide both certification materials in the appropriate language(s) and bilingual staff or interpreters, as required by FNS bilingual guidelines (see 7 CFR 272.4(b)).

1.Certification materials shall include the NJ SNAP application form, change report form and notices to households.

2.The CWAs shall ensure that certification offices provide sufficient bilingual staff or interpreters for the timely processing of non-English-speaking applicants.

History

HISTORY:

As amended on an emergency basis, R.1981 d.398, eff. September 30, 1981 (oper. October 1, 1981), exp. November 30, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a).

Readopted, R.1981 d.517, eff. December 31, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a), 14 N.J.R. 103(a), 14 N.J.R. 208(b).

Old text concerning "outreach efforts" deleted are replaced with new text concerning "program informational activities".

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Old text repealed and new text added.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Substituted references to the Division of Family Development (DFD) for references to the Division of Public Welfare (DPW) throughout; rewrote (c).

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

Rewrote (c).

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-1.5 Purpose of the NJ SNAP Manual

The purpose of this manual is to outline the policies and procedures applicable to the certification and/or recertification of those who apply for NJ SNAP benefits. The policies and procedures contained in this manual shall be used to determine eligibility criteria and issuance requirements for NJ SNAP benefits for all qualified households regardless of their eligibility for other assistance programs.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-1.6 The concept of reasonable certainty; situations not covered by the manual

(a) While this manual attempts to minimize discretionary action on the part of the certification worker, there will be situations which are not specifically covered by existing policy guidelines. In those cases the certification worker shall be expected to make a judgment, based on his or her experience and/or knowledge of the Program, which can be defended as both reasonable and prudent.

(b) In cases where the treatment of a situation is neither specifically nor generally addressed in this manual, the matter shall be referred to DFD for resolution.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 New Jersey Register 28(a), 36 New Jersey Register 2425(a).

In (b) substituted "DFD" for "DPW".

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§ 10:87-1.7 Assignment of manual

Copies of this manual shall be assigned to administrative and other staff working with applicants and recipients. Each staff member is expected to be thoroughly familiar with its contents so that policy and procedures may be consistently applied.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Deleted "staff", "to" and "in order".

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§ 10:87-1.8 Responsibility of manual holders

Each holder of the manual shall be responsible for maintaining a current and up-to-date manual. DFD shall issue revisions and changes as necessary; the manual holder shall insert new material and remove obsolete pages promptly.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Deleted "the Division of Public Welfare".

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 New Jersey Register 28(a), 36 New Jersey Register 2425(a).

Substituted "DFD" for "DPW".

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§ 10:87-1.9 Retention of obsolete material

The CWA shall retain one copy of obsolete manual material for administrative purposes.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Deleted "the County Welfare agency".

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§ 10:87-1.10 Public access to the manual

- (a)** This manual is a public document and shall be made accessible in accordance with (b) through (h) below.
- (b)** Specific policy material necessary for an applicant, recipient, and/or his or her representative to determine whether or not a hearing should be requested, or to prepare for a hearing, shall be provided to such persons without charge.
- (c)** All public and private libraries which have agreed to maintain the manual on a current up-to-date basis shall make a copy available to the public, subject to their own regulations.
- (d)** Each county legal services office shall be furnished with a copy of this manual.
- (e)** Welfare, social service and other nonprofit organizations shall be furnished with a free copy of the manual upon receipt by DFD of an official, written request.
- (f)** A current up-to-date copy of the manual, or any part of it, shall be available from DFD, at the cost of printing and mailing, to anyone who requests it in writing.
- (g)** A current up-to-date copy of the manual will be maintained in each CWA for examination by members of the public during regular working hours.
- (h)** All supplementary State policy directives shall be sent to those who have been supplied with the manual. A mailing list shall be maintained by DFD for that purpose.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 New Jersey Register 28(a), 36 New Jersey Register 2425(a).

Deleted the introductory phrases throughout.

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End of Document

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§ 10:87-1.11 Policy of nondiscrimination

CWAs shall not discriminate against any applicant or participant in any aspect of program administration, including, but not limited to, the certification of households, the issuance of benefits, the conduct of fair hearings, or any other program service, for reasons of age, race, color, sex, disability, religious creed, national origin, or political belief, and as otherwise prohibited by State and Federal law.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1994 d.42, effective January 18, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 4697(b), 26 N.J.R. 377(a).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Substituted "benefits" for "coupons" preceding "the conduct of fair hearings".

Amended by R.2017 d.022, effective February 6, 2017.

See: 48 N.J.R. 695(a), 49 N.J.R. 267(a).

Inserted a comma following "hearings" and following "origin", and inserted ", and as otherwise prohibited by State and Federal law".

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§ 10:87-1.12 Complaint procedures

(a)Persons who believe that they have been subject to discrimination as described in N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.11 may complain directly to USDA and/or to DFD. The CWA shall explain the complaint procedures and advise the individual(s) of their right to file a complaint.

(b)A complaint must be filed no later than 180 days from the date of alleged discrimination, unless the period is extended by USDA.

(c)The CWA shall accept all complaints of discrimination and forward them promptly to the Director of DFD who will in turn forward them to USDA.

(d)If a person alleges verbally that a discriminatory act has been committed and does not (or cannot) put it in writing, the CWA worker receiving the complaint shall do so. If possible, the following information shall be obtained from the complainant:

- 1.Name, address and telephone number or other means of contacting the persons alleging discrimination;
- 2.Location and name of the organization or office and/or person(s) accused of discriminatory practices;
- 3.The nature of the incident, action, or aspect of the program administration that led to the alleged discrimination;
- 4.The reasons for the alleged discrimination (that is, age, race, color, sex, disability, religious creed, national origin or political belief);
- 5.Names, titles (if appropriate), and addresses of persons (other than the complainant who may have knowledge of the discriminatory act(s); and
- 6.The date or dates on which the alleged discriminatory actions occurred.

(e)Written complaints shall be forwarded to the Director of DFD if the information in (d) above is not complete. Persons who file complaints shall be encouraged to provide this information to facilitate the investigation of the alleged discrimination and shall be advised that investigations by USDA will be conducted only if information specified in (d)2, 3 and 4 above is provided.

(f)To file a complaint of discrimination directly to USDA, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at https://www.ascr.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Complain_combined_6_8_12_508_0.pdf, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form, or write a letter containing all the information requested in the form. Send completed complaint forms or letters to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov

. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1994 d.42, effective January 18, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 4697(b), 26 N.J.R. 377(a).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Deleted the introductory phrases throughout.

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

Added (f).

Amended by R.2017 d.022, effective February 6, 2017.

See: 48 N.J.R. 695(a), 49 N.J.R. 267(a).

Rewrote (f).

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§ 10:87-1.13 Public Notification Plan

(a)The CWA shall publicize the procedure described in N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.12.

(b)At least once every fiscal year, the CWA shall advise local minority group organizations, in writing, that the NJ SNAP program is available to all eligible households on a nondiscriminatory basis and of the complaint procedures. If there are no minority group organizations in the county, the CWA shall contact minority ministers, teachers, and/or other community leaders in the county, informing them of this nondiscrimination policy.

(c)The CWA shall maintain file copies of correspondence concerning public notification of nondiscrimination. These documents shall be available for inspection during audits and compliance reviews conducted by State and Federal offices.

(d)The CWA shall display a nondiscrimination poster (supplied by FNS and/or DFD) in all local NJ SNAP certification offices.

(e)The CWA shall ensure that participants (and other low-income households) have access to information regarding their rights, nondiscrimination statutes and policies and complaint procedures, no later than 10 days from the date the information is requested.

(f)The CWA shall advise applicants for program participation that his or her application shall be processed without discrimination in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.11.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Deleted the introductory phrases throughout.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (d), substituted "DFD" for "DEA" and "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp".

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-1.14 Confidentiality and disclosure of information

(a)The CWA shall restrict the use or disclosure of information obtained from applicant or recipient households to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of the NJ SNAP program, WFNJ/TANF, jointly-processed WFNJ/GA households, SSI, Medicaid, Child Support and Paternity program (CSP), IEVS, Federally funded child welfare programs, including SACWIS or with any other Federal or Federally aided, means-tested assistance programs.

- 1.The verification of immigration documents of aliens applying for NJ SNAP benefits will be accomplished through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program and is subject to the same confidentiality safeguards afforded other programs.
- 2.The New Jersey Department of Labor may access information regarding NJ SNAP recipients for the purpose of administering the NJ SNAP ETP.
- 3.Agencies administering an NJ SNAP Nutrition Education Plan approved by USDA may access information regarding NJ SNAP recipients for the purpose of administering the Nutrition Education Plan.

(b)The CWA may release information concerning an applicant or recipient household in the following situations only:

- 1.Upon written request, the CWA shall cooperate in furnishing information to Federal, State or local law enforcement agencies in any investigation that concerns a household or person fraudulently obtaining benefits or otherwise violating the statutory provisions of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. §§ 2011 et seq.) and/or FNS and/or State rules. The law enforcement agency must provide a written request, which shall include the identity of the individual requesting the information and his or her authority to do so, the violation being investigated and the identity of the person about whom the information is requested.
 - i.CWAs shall make available, upon request, to any Federal, State or local law enforcement officer the address, photograph (if available) and Social Security

number of an NJ SNAP recipient. The officer must furnish the recipient's name, and must notify the CWA that the recipient is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement for a felony, is violating a condition of parole or probation or the CWA has information necessary for the officer to conduct an official duty related to a felony or parole violation.

2. Staff members shall provide such testimony as may be mandated by a court of competent jurisdiction in connection with administration and enforcement of the NJ SNAP program (see (a) above).

3. Upon written request by the household, the household may waive its rights to confidentiality of information and the CWA shall make disclosure of information but only to the extent specifically authorized by the waiver.

4. If there is a written request by a responsible member of the household, its current authorized representative, or a person acting in its behalf to review materials in its case file, the material and information contained in the case file shall be made available during normal business hours.

i. The CWA may withhold confidential information, such as the names of individuals who have disclosed information about the household without the household's knowledge, or the nature or status of pending criminal prosecutions.

5. Information and records shall be released to parties directly involved in a fair hearing procedure (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-8.6(a) and 8.14(a)).

6. The furnishing of any lists of names and/or addresses or both for purposes not directly related to the provisions of (a) above is specifically prohibited.

7. The disclosure of information in connection with the performance of a quality control review or State audit shall be permitted.

8. The CWA shall make available, to the CSP's Parent Locator Service, NJ SNAP case file information to assist the CSP program, under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

9. Households that provide an NJ SNAP or WFNJ/TANF case number on the school meal application are categorically eligible for free school meals. The CWA shall honor requests from school officials to verify NJ SNAP program participation for households applying for free school meals. The CWA shall not release any information with regard to the household beyond the verification of NJ SNAP program participation. Section 169 of the Food Stamp Application Privacy Act (P.L. 97-253) allows such information to be provided to officials verifying eligibility for free school meals.

10. The CWA shall furnish information to employees of the Comptroller General's Office of the United States for audit examination authorized by any other provision of law.

(c) Recipients of information released under this section must adequately protect the information against unauthorized disclosure to persons or for purposes not specified in this section. In addition, information received through the IEVS must be protected from unauthorized disclosure as required by regulations established by the information provider. Information released to the State agency pursuant to section 6103(f) of the Internal Revenue

Code of 1954 shall be subject to the safeguards established by the Secretary of the Treasury in section 6103(l) of the Internal Revenue Code and implemented by the Internal Revenue Service in its publication, Tax Information and Security Guidelines.

(d)Participants in the New Jersey Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) established by P.L. 1997, c. 369 to safeguard the identity and residence of victims of domestic violence shall be treated in the disposition of their NJ SNAP case records as follows:

1. Only residents of New Jersey are eligible to participate in the ACP. A photocopy of the individual's signed ACP participation card shall be retained in the individual's case record, and shall serve as documentation of the ACP participant's identity and residence.
2. CWAs shall not include in the case record any information which identifies the ACP participant's residence, including mortgage/rent, utility, and tax or insurance bills or receipts. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will act as a liaison on behalf of the individual, and will provide the CWA with written information that documents the requested expenses that the ACP participant is incurring.
3. The address utilized for the ACP participant to receive mail is essentially a "mail drop." Therefore, when sending a notice to an ACP participant, the CWA shall allow an additional five days for the recipient to take action. However, this does not apply to a Families First EBT aging notice, which shall remain at 10 days.
4. In the event that Federal, State, or local agency staff must speak directly with the ACP participant, the Request for Contact procedures at N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5 shall be followed.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1985 d.179, effective April 15, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 166(a), 17 N.J.R. 968(b).

(b)8 added.

Amended by R.1985 d.475, effective September 16, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 1377(b), 17 N.J.R. 2273(a).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.565, effective November 19, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 2219(a), 22 N.J.R. 3486(a).

Specified that county welfare agencies are to release information to school districts for verification of eligibility for free school meal programs.

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

Rewrote (a); and in (b)1, added I.

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (a) and (b)9, substituted references to WFNJ/TANF for references to AFDC; and in (a), inserted a reference to Federally-funded child welfare programs, including the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Deleted the introductory phrases throughout; in (b), substituted "benefits" for "coupons" in 1 and amended the N.J.A.C. reference in 5; added (c) and (d).

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

Rewrote (a) and (b)1; in (b)2 and (b)9, substituted "NJ SNAP program" for "Food Stamp Program" throughout; in (b)8, substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp"; in (b)9, substituted "an NJ SNAP" for "a food stamp"; and in the introductory paragraph of (d), substituted "c. 369" for "c.369" and "NJ SNAP" for "Food Stamp".

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.15

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New Jersey Administrative Code > TITLE 10. HUMAN SERVICES > CHAPTER 87. NEW JERSEY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NJ SNAP) MANUAL > SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 10:87-1.15 Public access to information

(a)Copies of the manual, supplementary directives issued for use in certifying applicant households and NJ SNAP fair hearing reports shall be readily available for public inspection in all CWA central NJ SNAP offices.

(b)In addition, Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program statutes, FNS regulations, instructions, the State Plan of Operation and a copy of this manual shall be readily available for public inspection during regular office hours in the central DFD office, as well as the FNS Regional Office.

(c)DFD, at its option, may require other CWA offices within the State to maintain a copy of Federal statutes and FNS regulations.

History

HISTORY:

As amended on an emergency basis, R.1981 d.398, eff. September 30, 1981 (oper. October 1, 1981) exp. November 30, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a).

Readopted, R.1981 d.517, eff. December 31, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a), 14 N.J.R. 103(a).

(a): Deleted "the State Outreach Plan . . . coordinates".

(b): Deleted "and" after "regulations" and inserted same after "instructions"; deleted "and the State Outreach reports".

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (a), deleted a comma following "households" and substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp" twice; in (b), substituted "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" for "food stamp" and "DFD" for "DEA", deleted a comma following "Operation", and inserted a comma following the second occurrence of "office"; and in (c), substituted "DFD" for "DEA".

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§ 10:87-1.16 Appeals

An applicant or recipient shall have the right to appeal any action or inaction concerning the Program on the part of the CWA that affects his or her household (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-8 concerning fair hearings).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Substantially amended.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.17

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§ 10:87-1.17 Suits against county

(a)The CWA shall notify the DFD immediately of any suit(s) filed by any person/organization against the CWA and/or DFD that involve(s) administration of the NJ SNAP program and shall furnish DFD with copies of the original pleadings and all subsequently filed pleadings.

(b)If the CWA fails to comply with the provisions of (a) above and is ordered by a court to take actions that are determined by the USDA to be inconsistent with the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. §§ 2011 et seq.) and its FNS regulations or instructions, the CWA may be liable for the amount of benefits issued pursuant to the court order.

History

HISTORY:

As amended on an emergency basis, R.1981 d.398, effective September 30, 1981 (Operative October 1, 1981), expires November 30, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a).

Readopted R.1981 d.517, effective December 31, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a), 14 N.J.R. 103(a).

Deleted text of N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.17 concerning "outreach" and recodified N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.18 as 1.17 without change in text.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (b), substituted a reference to benefits for a reference to coupons.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (b), deleted the introductory phrase.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (a), substituted the first and third occurrence of "DFD" for the first and third occurrence of "DEA", "DFD that" for "DEA which" and "NJ SNAP program" for "Food Stamp Program"; and in (b), substituted "that" for "which", "and Nutrition" for "Stamp" and "2008 (7 U.S.C. §§ 2011 et seq.)" for "1977", and inserted "the" preceding "USDA".

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.18

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§ 10:87-1.18 (Reserved)

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.1

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§ 10:87-2.1 The household concept

Every NJ SNAP application shall be made on behalf of a household. It is critically important to determine exactly who constitutes the household for NJ SNAP purposes since all considerations of eligibility will follow from this initial determination.

History

HISTORY:

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2

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§ 10:87-2.2 Household defined

(a)A household may be composed of any of the following individuals or groups of individuals:

1. Individual living alone;

2. An individual living with others, but who customarily purchases food and prepares meals for home consumption separate and apart from others.

i. Any person who has a disability that prevents him or her from purchasing or preparing his or her own food, but who has arranged to have his or her food purchased and prepared separate and apart from others in the household, may claim separate household status. Separate household status may be granted even if the person who shops for food or prepares meals for the disabled person is residing with the disabled person;

3. A group of individuals living together for whom food is purchased in common and for whom meals are prepared together for home consumption;

4. An individual who is 60 years of age or older (and the spouse of such individual) living with others who is unable to purchase and prepare meals because he or she suffers from a disability considered permanent under the Social Security Act or suffers from some other physical or mental nondisease-related, severe, permanent disability may be a separate household (see definition of elderly or disabled at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34 and verification requirements at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(i)). However, the gross monthly income of the household with which the individual resides cannot exceed the gross monthly income eligibility standard for the appropriate household size at N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.7. This income determination shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:

i. The gross monthly income of the others with whom the elderly, disabled person resides shall be determined as if they were applying for participation in the program. The income of the elderly, disabled person and his or her spouse is not included in the calculation. The elderly, disabled person and his or her spouse are not to be considered household members for this purpose;

ii. The gross monthly income of the others shall then be compared to the monthly income eligibility standard for the appropriate household size in N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.7 to determine if the income is within the prescribed limit. The elderly, disabled person and his or her spouse would not be considered as household members for this comparison.

5. An applicant household that has customarily purchased and prepared food separately in the past but, because of changes in financial or other circumstances, is now temporarily buying and preparing food with others, shall be considered a separate household, providing it intends to return to its former status upon receipt of NJ SNAP benefits. The applicant household's statements on past and intended practices shall suffice, except when the information provided is questionable according to the criteria at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(i). If the applicant household does not return to its former status, the actual household composition will prevail and will be considered a client-reportable change in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(a) and (b). The 10-day period for reporting that the applicant household has not returned to its former status will commence upon receipt of NJ SNAP benefits.

(b) Individuals or groups of individuals who are residents of an institution (except as otherwise specified in N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.4) or commercial boarding home, or boarders (except as specified in N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3(b)) may not participate in the program.

(c) In no event shall nonhousehold member status or separate household status be granted to:

1. Parents and their biological, adopted or stepchildren (excluding foster children) under the age of 22 who reside together, regardless of the marital status or having a child of their own. The biological parent-child relationship takes precedence unless there has been a termination of parental rights. Legal custody does not in and of itself terminate parental rights, in which case the legal relationship between the biological parent and the child would still exist even though another person(s) has been awarded legal custody of the child. The following are two examples of such household compositions:

i. Example 1: The grandparents who have legal custody of a grandchild, their own adult child, who also is the biological parent of the grandchild, all reside together. The parent and child would have to be considered one household for NJ SNAP program benefits because parental rights have not been terminated. Likewise, the grandparents would also have to be included in the same NJ SNAP household because the grandchild is financially dependent on them since they have legal custody of that grandchild (see (c)2 below).

ii. Example 2: There are two siblings, with the mother having legally terminated her parental rights of one of the siblings. The grandparents have legal custody of that child. This can be a two-person household if the mother applies for NJ SNAP benefits for herself and the one child for whom she has not given up her parental rights. If the grandparents apply for NJ SNAP benefits, they would be a separate NJ SNAP household with the grandchild of whom they have legal custody (see (c)2 below);

2.A child (other than a foster child) under 18 years of age who lives with and is under parental control of a household member other than his or her parent. A child shall be considered to be under parental control for purposes of this provision if he or she is financially or otherwise dependent on a member of the household.

i.An individual between the ages of 18 and 22 is considered an adult and can be a separate household from those with whom he or she lives if he or she purchases and prepares food separately. In the case of an 18 through 22 year old living with a grandparent, he or she can be a separate household unless the grandparent has legally adopted the 18 through 22 year old or they purchase and prepare meals together.

ii.An individual between the ages of 18 and 22, not living with his or her biological, adoptive or stepparent, who is married and/or has a child of his or her own, and is not financially dependent on a member of the household, and prepares and eats his or her meals separate and apart from other members residing in the household, may, for NJ SNAP purposes, be considered a separate household.

iii.An individual, including individuals under 18 years old, emancipated from any parental control, living solely with his or her spouse and/or children, for NJ SNAP purposes, shall be considered a separate household;

3.A spouse of a member of the household. For the purposes of this Program, the term "spouse" shall include persons recognized by applicable State law as such and persons representing themselves as husband and wife to the community, relatives, friends, neighbors or trades people; or

4.Individuals who purchase and prepare meals together, with the following exceptions:

i.A household containing an elderly and disabled member who cannot purchase and prepare meals separately can be separated from the other household members, provided that the income of the other members does not exceed 165 percent of the Federal poverty level for the household size of the other members, per N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2(a)4. (See N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.7 Table VII.)

ii.Foster individuals (N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3(b)6) cannot be required to be included in the household if the household decides otherwise.

(d)In cases of joint child custody, either parent may claim a child(ren) as a member of their NJ SNAP household, as long as the child(ren) resides in the home for some portion of the month. In the event that both parents are participating in the NJ SNAP program and both want to claim the child(ren) as a part of his or her household, the parent who has the child(ren) the greater part of the time shall be the parent to claim the child(ren) as a part of his or her NJ SNAP household.

1.If the child(ren) lives with each parent equally, the parent household that applies first shall be the one to add the child(ren) to his or her NJ SNAP household.

2.Under no circumstances shall duplicate participation occur. The child(ren) cannot be a part of two NJ SNAP households at the same time.

History

HISTORY:

Amended on an emergency basis, R.1981 d.398, effective September 30, 1981 (operative October 1, 1981), expires November 30, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a).

Readopted, R.1981 d.517, effective December 31, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a), 14 N.J.R. 103(a).

Section substantially amended.

Amended by R.1983 d.72, effective February 28, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 97(a), 15 N.J.R. 444(a).

Originally filed as an emergency adoption (R.1982 d.503) on December 30, 1982. Changes upon readoption were precipitated by emergency adoption (R.1983 d.38) filed on January 31, 1983. Readopted as R.1983 d.72. Language has been added to provide for and distinguish income limitations for elderly and disabled individuals living with others.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Stylistic revisions in (a)4 and 5 correcting reference to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20(i).

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

Rewrote (c).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Deleted the introductory phrases throughout; in (a), amended the N.J.A.C. references in the first sentence of 4 and the second sentence of 5; in (c), added the third sentence.

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

In (c)1, inserted ", regardless of the marital status or having a child of their own", deleted former (c)2 and added new (c)2; in (c)4, inserted ", with the following exceptions" and substituted a colon for the period at the end; and added (d).

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

In the introductory paragraph of (c)1, substituted a period for a semicolon at the end of the first sentence and inserted the last three sentences; and added (c)1i and (c)1ii.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (a)5, the introductory paragraph of (d), and in (d)1 and (d)2, substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp"; in (a)5, substituted "NJ SNAP benefits" for "food stamps"; rewrote (c)1 and (c)2; and in the introductory paragraph of (d), substituted "NJ SNAP program" for "Food Stamp Program".

Amended by R.2017 d.022, effective February 6, 2017.

See: 48 N.J.R. 695(a), 49 N.J.R. 267(a).

In the introductory paragraph of (a)2, substituted "others." for "the others;"; and added (a)2i.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3

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§ 10:87-2.3 Nonhousehold members, boarders and excluded household members

(a) Individuals in (a)1 and 2 below residing with a household shall not be considered household members in determining a household's eligibility or allotment.

1. The following nonhousehold members who are otherwise eligible may participate in the program as separate households:

- i.** Individuals to whom a household furnishes lodging, but not meals, for compensation, otherwise known as roomers;
- ii.** Individuals who reside in a household to provide medical, housekeeping, child care or other similar personal services, otherwise known as live-in-attendants; and
- iii.** Other individuals who share living quarters with the household but who do not customarily purchase and prepare meals with the household. For example, if the applicant household shares living quarters with another family to save on rent but does not purchase and prepare food together with that family, the members of the other family are not members of the applicant household.

2. The following nonhousehold members are ineligible to participate in the program as separate households:

- i.** Persons enrolled in an institution of post-secondary education who are ineligible because they fail to meet the eligibility criteria at N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.14(d).

(b) Boarders are defined as individuals or groups of individuals residing with a household and paying reasonable compensation to the household for lodging and meals, excluding residents of a commercial boarding house.

1. Boarders are ineligible to participate in the program independent of the household providing boarder services to them. Boarders may only participate in the program as members of the household providing the boarder services to them, at such household's request. Boarders who are included in the household shall have all income and resources counted in determining the household's eligibility.

2.In no event shall boarder status be granted to children or siblings residing with elderly or disabled parents or siblings or to those individuals or groups of individuals described at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2(c).

3.To determine if an individual qualifies for boarder status, it is necessary to determine if the individual is paying reasonable compensation for meals and lodging. Only that amount paid for meals shall be used in determining reasonable payment provided that the amount paid for meals is distinguishable from the amount paid for lodging. A reasonable monthly payment shall be either of the following:

i.Boarders whose board arrangement is for more than two meals per day shall pay an amount which equals or exceeds the maximum benefit allotment (MBA) for the appropriate size of the boarder household; or

ii.Boarders whose board arrangement is for two meals or less per day shall pay an amount which equals or exceeds two-thirds the MBA for the appropriate size of the boarder household.

4.Boarder status shall not be extended to an individual who is furnished both meals and lodging by a household but is paying compensation of less than a reasonable amount (as specified in (b)3 above). Such individual shall be considered a member of the household which provides the meals and lodging and shall have his or her income and resources counted in determining the eligibility and benefits of the household with whom the individual boards.

5.None of the income and resources of individuals determined to be boarders and who are not members of the household providing boarder services shall be considered available to such household. However, the amount of the payment that a boarder gives to a household shall be treated as self-employment income to the household in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.4(a)3.

6.Foster individuals cannot be required to be included in the household with whom they reside. The household has the option of including foster individuals in the household, but if it elects not to do so, then the foster individuals shall be treated as boarders. Likewise, children who are placed in a household under a guardianship arrangement shall be treated in a manner similar to foster children and adults. That is, the household has the option of including the individual under guardian care in the household for NJ SNAP purposes, or excluding the individual from the household. Any payment that the household receives for the care of the individual under guardianship care shall be either included in household income, if the household elects to include the individual in the NJ SNAP household, or excluded from household income if the household decides to exclude the individual from the household.

(c)The following individuals residing with a household shall be excluded from the household when determining the household's size for the purposes of assigning a benefit level to the household or of comparing the household's monthly income with the income eligibility standards. However, the income and resources of an excluded household member shall be considered available to the remaining household members in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.7. Excluded household members may not participate in the program as separate households.

1. Individuals disqualified for intentional program violation (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.1 through 11.10);
2. Individuals disqualified for failure to obtain or refusal to provide a Social Security number (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.15);
3. Individuals who do not attest to or meet the citizenship or eligible alien status requirements at N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 or the eligible sponsored alien requirements at N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.11(a); or
4. Individuals disqualified for noncompliance with the work registration, employment and training program, or voluntary quit provisions at N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.5 and 10.15 through 10.20.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1981 d.97, effective April 9, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 96(c), 13 N.J.R. 228(a).

(a)5: new text substituted for old.

(a)6: delete disqualification of college students for failure to meet school year work registration requirements.

Amended on an emergency basis, R.1981 d.398, eff. September 30, 1981 (oper. October 1, 1981) exp. November 30, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a).

Readopted, R.1981 d.517, eff. December 31, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a), 14 N.J.R. 103(a).

(a)2i: "or" deleted after "spouse" and "or parents" added; "or to either parents . . . of age or older."

Amended by R.1983 d.72, effective February 28, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 97(a), 15 N.J.R. 444(a).

Originally filed as an emergency adoption (R.1982 d.503) on December 30, 1982. Changes upon readoption were precipitated by an emergency adoption (R.1983 d.38) filed on January 31, 1983. Readopted as R.1983 d.72. The definition of "boarders" has been amended and language has been added to clarify inclusion of income and resources of disqualified individuals.

Amended by R.1983 d.223, effective May 31, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 629(a), 15 N.J.R. 1033(a).

Originally adopted as an emergency Rule R.1983 d.116, eff. March 31, 1983, operative April 1, 1983. The amendment is pursuant to the Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-35). Language concerning disqualified individuals changed to excluded household members.

Emergency Rule, R.1987 d.202, effective April 3, 1987 (expires June 2, 1987).

See: 19 N.J.R. 649(a).

(c)5 added.

Readoption of Emergency Rule and Concurrent Proposal, R.1987 d.261, effective July 6, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 649(a), 19 N.J.R. 1207(b).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Stylistic revisions in (c)4 correcting reference to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.21(b).

Amended by R.1991 d.247, effective May 6, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 179(a), 23 N.J.R. 1412(b).

Deleted (a)2ii regarding individuals disqualified for noncompliance with various work and/or training requirements.

Revised such text at (c)4 for excluded household members.

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (b)6, substituted references to individuals for references to children throughout.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

In (b)3i, substituted "benefit" for "coupon", and in (b)3i and (b)3ii, substituted "(MBA)" for "(MCA)".

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (a)2i, updated the N.J.A.C. reference; in the introductory paragraph of (b), inserted a comma following "meals"; and in (b)6, substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp" twice and "that" for "which".

End of Document

N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.4

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§ 10:87-2.4 Residents of institutions and homeless individuals defined

(a) Individuals shall be considered residents of an institution when the institution provides them with the majority of their meals (over 50 percent of three meals daily) as part of the institution's normal services. Residents of institutions are not eligible for participation in the NJ SNAP program, with the following exceptions:

1. Residents of Federally subsidized housing for the elderly, built under either Section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 or Section 236 of the National Housing Act;
2. Substance abusers who, for the purpose of regular participation in a New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services licensed or approved residential substance abuse treatment program, reside at a facility or treatment center as described at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.7(d);
 - i. Residents must be certified as one-person households unless their children are living with them, in which case their children shall be included in the household with the parent;
3. Blind and/or disabled individuals who meet the definition at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34 and who reside in a public or private nonprofit group living arrangement that serves no more than 16 residents (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.7(e));
4. Women or women with their children temporarily residing in a shelter for battered women and children shall be considered individual household units for the purpose of applying for and participating in the program.
 - i. A shelter for battered women and children shall be defined as a public or private nonprofit residential facility that serves battered women and their children and which may be authorized by FNS to accept and redeem NJ SNAP benefits. If such a facility serves other individuals, a portion of the facility must be set aside on a long term basis to serve only battered women and children.
 - ii. The CWA shall maintain a list of shelters which meet the definition at (a)4i above and document the basis of this determination. Shelters having FNS authorization

to redeem NJ SNAP benefits through wholesalers shall be deemed as meeting the above definition.

5. Residents of public or private nonprofit shelters for homeless persons.

(b) Homeless individual means an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is:

1. A supervised shelter designed to provide temporary accommodations, such as a welfare hotel or congregate shelter;
2. A halfway house or similar institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
3. A temporary accommodation in the residence of another individual, provided that such accommodation is not maintained for more than 90 days; or
4. A place not designed for, or ordinarily used, as regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (a hallway, a bus station, a lobby or similar places).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1982 d.473, effective January 3, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1037(a), 15 N.J.R. 34(a).

Added, group living arrangements and shelters for battered women.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1993 d.62, effective February 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3207(b), 25 N.J.R. 584(a).

In (a)3, revised definition of who qualifies for food stamp benefits in an institution.

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (b)3, inserted ", provided that such accommodation is not maintained for more than 90 days" following "individual".

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.5

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§ 10:87-2.5 Boarding home/house

(a)Residents of commercial boarding homes/houses are not eligible for program benefits. For program purposes, a boarding home/house shall be defined as an establishment which is licensed as a commercial enterprise which offers meals and lodging for compensation. In areas without licensing requirements, a boarding home/house shall be defined as a commercial establishment which offers meals and lodging for compensation with the intention of making a profit. The number of boarders shall not be used to determine if a boarding home/house is a commercial enterprise.

(b)The household of the proprietor of a boarding home/house may participate in the program separate and apart from the residents of the boarding home if that household meets all of the eligibility requirements for program participation.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (b), deleted the introductory phrase.

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§ 10:87-2.6 Head of household

(a)The CWA shall not use the head of household designation to impose special requirements on the household, such as requiring that the head of household, rather than another responsible member of the household, appear at the certification office to make application for benefits.

(b)When designating the head of household, the CWA shall allow the household to select an adult parent of children (of any age) living in the household, as the head of household provided that all adult household members agree to the selection. The CWA shall permit such households to select their head at each certification action or whenever there is a change in household composition.

1.The CWA shall provide written notice to all households at the time of application and, as otherwise appropriate, that specifies the household's right to select its head of household in accordance with (b) above.

i.The written notice shall identify which households have the option to select their head of household, the circumstances under which a household may change its designation of head of household and how such changes must be reported to the CWA.

(c)If all adult household members do not agree to the selection or decline to select an adult parent as the head of household, the CWA may designate the head of household or permit the household to make another selection. In no event shall the household's failure to select an adult parent of children, or an adult who has parental control over children, as the head of household delay the certification or result in the denial of benefits of an otherwise eligible household. For households that do not consist of adult parents and children or adults who have parental control of children living in the household, the CWA shall designate the head of household or permit the household to do so.

(d)For purposes of failure to comply with the work requirements at N.J.A.C. 10:87-10, the head of household shall be the principal wage earner unless the household has selected an adult parent of children as specified in (b) and (c) above. The principal wage earner shall be the household member (including excluded members, see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3(c)) who is the

greatest source of earned income in the two months prior to the month of the violation. This provision applies only if the employment involves 20 hours or more per week or provides weekly earnings at least equivalent to the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours.

1.No person of any age living with a parent or person fulfilling the role of a parent who is registered for work or exempt from work registration requirements because such parent or person fulfilling the role of a parent is subject to and participating in any work requirement under title IV of the Social Security Act, or in receipt of unemployment compensation (or has registered for work as part of the application for or receipt of unemployment compensation), or is employed or self-employed and working a minimum of 30 hours weekly or receiving weekly earnings equal to the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours, shall be considered the head of household unless the person is an adult parent of children as specified in (b) and (c) above and the household elects to designate the adult parent as its head of household.

2.If there is no principal source of earned income in the household, the household member, documented in the case file as the head of household at the time of the violation, shall be considered the head of household.

3.The designation of head of household through the circumstances at (d) above shall take precedence over a previous designation of head of household at least until the period of ineligibility is ended.

History

HISTORY:

Emergency Amendment, R.1987 d.202, effective April 3, 1987 (expires June 2, 1987).

See: 19 N.J.R. 649(a).

Added all new text.

Readoption of Emergency Rule and Concurrent Proposal, R.1987 d.261, effective July 6, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 649(a), 19 N.J.R. 1207(b).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1991 d.247, effective May 6, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 179(a), 23 N.J.R. 1412(b).

Added new (b)iv.

Amended by R.1993 d.62, effective February 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3207(b), 25 N.J.R. 584(a).

In (b)1ii, provides for the selection of a head of household.

Repeal and New Rule, R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Section was "Head of Household".

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§ 10:87-2.7 Authorized representatives

(a)The head of the household, spouse, or any other responsible member of the household may designate an authorized representative to act on behalf of the household in one or all of the functions described in (b) through (e) below.

(b)When the head of the household or the spouse cannot make application, another household member may apply, or an adult nonhousehold member may be designated as the authorized representative for that purpose. The head of the household or the spouse should prepare or review the application whenever possible even though another household member or the authorized representative will actually be interviewed. In conjunction with these provisions, another household member or the household's authorized representative may complete work registration forms for those household members required to register for work. The authorized representative designated for application processing purposes may also carry out household responsibilities during the certification period, such as reporting changes in the household's income or other household circumstances in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(b). The CWA shall inform the household that it will be held liable for any overissuance which results from erroneous information given by the authorized representative, except as provided at N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.8(d) and 7.9(d). Adults who are non-household members may be designated as authorized representatives for certification purposes only under the following conditions:

- 1.The authorized representative has been designated in writing by the head of the household or the spouse, or another responsible member of the household; and
- 2.The authorized representative is an adult (age 18 or older) who is sufficiently aware of relevant household circumstances.

(c)An authorized representative may be designated as a payee to use NJ SNAP benefits. The authorized representative for benefit use may be the same individual designated to make application and meet reporting requirements during the certification period for the household or may be another individual. An authorized representative acting as payee may access NJ SNAP benefits in order to purchase food for the household's consumption, with the full knowledge and consent of the household. This designation can be made at the time

the application is completed, or at a later date, and an authorized representative who is acting as a payee shall be issued his or her own Families First card with its own Personal Identification Number (PIN) in accordance with the provisions at N.J.A.C. 10:88-3.2.

1.The household may also designate an emergency authorized representative at a later date. An emergency authorized representative is someone not already identified who would be able to assist the household when neither a household member nor the authorized representative is able to assist them because of unforeseen circumstances.

(d)Substance abusers who regularly participate in a drug or alcoholic treatment program on a resident basis may elect to participate in the NJ SNAP program. The resident shall apply and be certified for program participation through the use of an authorized representative who shall be an employee of and designated by the publicly operated community mental health center or the private nonprofit organization or institution which is administering the treatment and rehabilitation program. The organization or institution shall apply on behalf of each substance abuser and shall receive a Families First card for each individual and shall access each individual's benefit for food prepared by and/or served to the substance abuser. The organization or institution shall also be responsible for complying with the requirements set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.8 and 10:88-3.5.

1.For the purpose of this Manual, a center shall be defined as any licensed or approved residential substance abuse treatment program or halfway house which has been certified as such by the New Jersey Department of Human Services or has been authorized by FNS to accept NJ SNAP benefits as a retailer.

2.Prior to certifying any residents for NJ SNAP benefits, the CWA shall verify that the treatment center is authorized by FNS as a retailer or is certified as an approved center by the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

i.A center or facility which is in possession of a current NJ SNAP program Authorization Card (Form FNS-254) shall be construed as an authorized center.

(e)Residents of group living arrangements shall either apply and be certified through use of an authorized representative employed and designated by the group living facility or apply and be certified on their own behalf or through an authorized representative of their own choice. Prior to certifying any residents for NJ SNAP benefits, the CWA shall verify that the facility is authorized by FNS or certified by the Department of Human Services (see (e)1 below).

1.A group living arrangement shall be defined as a public or private nonprofit residential setting which serves no more than 16 residents, which is certified by the New Jersey Department of Human Services and which may elect to be authorized by FNS to accept NJ SNAP benefits.

i.A center or facility which is in possession of a current NJ SNAP program Authorization Card (FNS-254) shall be construed as an authorized center.

2.Staff of the group living arrangement facility has the responsibility to determine if any individual or group of individuals residing at the facility is competent to

comprehend the application process and be responsible for his/her statements in order to apply on his/her own behalf.

3.If the group living arrangement facility acts as the authorized representative, the facility shall make application for an individual resident as a one-person household.

4.If the resident applies through the facility as the authorized representative, the facility may either access each individual's benefit allotment for food prepared by and/or served to the eligible residents or allow the eligible resident access to all or any portion of the allotment on his or her own behalf.

5.If the residents are certified on their own behalf, the benefit allotment may either be accessed by the facility to be used to purchase food for meals served, whether communally or individually to eligible residents; or the benefit allotment may be accessed by each eligible resident to purchase and prepare food for their own consumption; and/or to purchase meals prepared and served by the group living arrangement.

6.The group living arrangement facility is responsible for complying with the requirements set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.9 and 10:88-3.5.

History

HISTORY:

As amended, R.1980 d.117, effective March 19, 1980.

See: 11 N.J.R. 517(a), 12 N.J.R. 194(b).

(a)2i: Added last sentence.

(a)4i: Deleted requirement for prior authorization to receive food stamps.

As amended, R.1982 d.437, effective December 20, 1982.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1041(a), 14 N.J.R. 1462(b).

Household representative authorized to complete work registrations for other household members.

As amended, R.1982 d.474, effective January 3, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1081(b), 15 N.J.R. 35(a).

Authorization by FNS delineated.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (e)2ii and (f)1ii, substituted references to the Division of Family Development for references to the Division of Economic Assistance, Bureau of Food Stamps.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-2.8 Nonhousehold member as authorized representative

In the event the only adult living with a household is classified as a nonhousehold member as defined in N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3, that individual may be the authorized representative for the minor household members.

History

HISTORY:

As amended, R.1982 d.474, effective January 3, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1081(b), 15 N.J.R. 35(a).

N.J.A.C. cite inserted.

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§ 10:87-2.9 Documentation of authorized representative

The CWA shall bear the responsibility of recording in the case record the name of the authorized representative.

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§ 10:87-2.10 Restrictions on authorized representatives

(a)Public welfare agency employees who are involved in the certification and/or issuance process and retailers that are authorized to accept NJ SNAP benefits may not act as authorized representatives without the specific written approval of the CWA Director, and only if the Director determines that no one else is available to serve as an authorized representative. The CWA Director shall personally approve any appointments of this nature.

(b)Individuals disqualified for intentional program violation shall not act as authorized representatives during the period of disqualification, unless the disqualified individual is the only adult member of the household able to act on its behalf and the CWA has determined that no one else is available to serve as an authorized representative. The CWA shall separately determine whether or not these individuals are needed to apply on behalf of the household and to access benefits in order to purchase food for the household. For example, the household may have an authorized representative but may not be able to find anyone to access their benefits and purchase food regularly. If the CWA also is unable to find anyone to serve as authorized representative to access benefits and purchase food regularly, the disqualified member shall be allowed to do so.

(c)Limits shall not be placed on the number of households an authorized representative may represent. In the event that employers, such as those that employ migrant or seasonal farm workers, are designated as authorized representatives or that a single authorized representative has access to a large number of recipient benefits, the CWA will exercise caution to assure that: the household has freely requested the assistance of the authorized representative; the household's circumstances are correctly represented and the household is receiving the correct amount of benefits; and the authorized representative is properly accessing and using the benefits. When a CWA suspects an authorized representative of not properly accessing and using the benefits, it should report the circumstances to the Director, Division of Family Development, who will in turn forward the report to the FNS.

(d)CWAs that have obtained evidence that an authorized representative has misrepresented a household's circumstances and has knowingly provided false information pertaining to the household, or has made improper access to or use of benefits, may disqualify that person from acting as an authorized representative for up to one year. The CWA shall send written

notification to the affected household(s) and the authorized representative 30 days prior to the date of disqualification. The notification shall include the proposed action, the reason for the proposed action, the household's right to request a fair hearing, the telephone number of the NJ SNAP office and, if possible, the person to contact for further information. The household, not the authorized representative, may appeal this action. This provision is not applicable in the case of licensed or approved residential substance abuse treatment programs and those group homes that act as authorized representatives for their residents.

(e)Homeless meal providers may not act as authorized representatives for homeless NJ SNAP recipients. A homeless meal provider means a public or private nonprofit establishment (for example, soup kitchen, temporary shelter), approved by the New Jersey Department of Human Services and authorized by FNS to accept NJ SNAP benefits, that feeds homeless persons.

1. The Division of Family Development, or another appropriate State or local governmental agency identified by the New Jersey Department of Human Services in addition to FNS, shall approve establishments and shelters serving the homeless. The establishment or shelter is required to present sufficient evidence, as determined by the State agency, that it does in fact serve meals to homeless persons. The Division of Family Development will remain responsible for ensuring effective compliance with these provisions when another agency has been identified to approve establishments or shelters serving the homeless. Upon approval as a homeless meal provider by the State agency, the homeless meal provider must present evidence of the State's approval to FNS if it wishes to become authorized by FNS to accept NJ SNAP benefits.

History

HISTORY:

As amended, R.1984 d.17, effective February 6, 1984.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1821(a), 16 N.J.R. 246(a).

(a)4, disqualification of authorized representatives added.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (a), (d), the introductory paragraph of (e), and (e)1, substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp" throughout; in (c), inserted a comma following "employers" and "workers", and substituted "FNS" for "Food and Nutrition Service"; in (d), substituted "that" for "which" following "CWAs" and "group homes"; and in the introductory paragraph of (e), substituted "New Jersey" for "N.J."

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§ 10:87-2.11 Application for NJ SNAP benefits

The application process includes filing and completion of an application form, interview of the applicant, and verification of certain information. The CWA shall act promptly (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26 and 2.27 on all applications and provide NJ SNAP benefits retroactive to the month of application to those households which have completed the application process and have been determined eligible. Expedited service shall be available to households in immediate need (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.28 through 2.30).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Amended the N.J.A.C. references throughout.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-2.12 NJ SNAP application form

(a)The composition of the applicant household will determine the appropriate NJ SNAP application to be used:

1. PA/NJ SNAP households are those NJ SNAP households (as determined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2) in which any member is in receipt of TANF or GA, SSI or is a household that is categorically eligible in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.32, and shall be counted as PA/NJ SNAP households. Additionally, a case that is categorically eligible or is receiving TANF payments for transportation, child care or to subsidize wages, is counted as a PA/NJ SNAP household. For such households the appropriate application form is the Form WFNJ-1J ("Application and Affidavit for Public Assistance") which will serve as a joint application for public assistance and NJ SNAP benefits.
2. NPA households are those NJ SNAP households (as determined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2) that do not meet the definition of PA households. For such households, the appropriate application form is NJ SNAP Application.
3. SSI jointly processed households are those households in which all members are applicants for, or recipients of, SSI and are neither certified for, nor have an application for NJ SNAP benefits pending and have applied for NJ SNAP benefits at a Social Security Administration district office (SSA/DO). For such households, the appropriate application form is NJ SNAP Application (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.33).

(b)All applicants for NJ SNAP benefits shall be notified at the time of application, and at each recertification, through a written statement, that information available through the State IEVS will be requested to verify eligibility. Discrepancies found are subject to additional verification through collateral contact and such information may affect the household's eligibility and benefits.

(c)The applicant is required to sign the application that shall contain a statement attesting under penalty of perjury to the citizenship of each household member applying for benefits or alien status of each household member applying for benefits. The income and resources of

the ineligible member(s) shall be considered available in determining the eligibility of any remaining household members in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.7.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (a), substituted a reference to WFNJ/TANF for a reference to AFDC in 1; and substituted a reference to Form FSP-901 for a reference to FSP-901A in 3.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

Section was "Food stamp application form". Rewrote (a) and (b).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.13

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§ 10:87-2.13 Filing an application

(a)The CWAs shall utilize an application form approved by the Division of Family Development. The application shall prominently contain understandable terms that benefits will be subject to verification by Federal, State and local officials to determine that the information is factual and that incorrect information can lead to denial and may subject the applicant to criminal prosecution for knowingly providing incorrect information, as well as civil and criminal provisions and penalties. In addition, the front page shall provide space for the applicant to write his or her name, address and signature; a clear statement of the household's right to immediately file an application; and notice that benefits are provided from date of application.

(b)Households must file an NJ SNAP application by submitting the appropriate form to the NJ SNAP office in person, through an authorized representative, by mail, by data-faxing or electronically. The amount of time for the CWA to deliver benefits is calculated from the date the application is filed in the NJ SNAP office designated to accept the household's application (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26 and 2.27). Households subject to SSI joint processing (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.12(a)3) must file an NJ SNAP application by submitting the appropriate form to the SSA/DO in person, through an authorized representative, or by mail. The amount of time for the CWA to deliver benefits is calculated from the date the application is filed in the SSA/DO designated to accept the household's application (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26). Residents of public institutions who jointly apply for NJ SNAP benefits and SSI under SSA's Prerelease Program for the Institutionalized shall have their date of release from the institution considered as the date of application for NJ SNAP purposes.

(c)Each household has the right to file an application during office hours of the same day it contacts the NJ SNAP office within the county of its residence. The household shall be advised that it does not have to be interviewed before filing the application and may file an incomplete application.

1.In order to be considered an application for NJ SNAP purposes, the paper or electronic application must contain, at a minimum, the applicant's name and address, and must be signed by a responsible member of the household or the household's authorized representative (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.7).

2.The CWA shall document the date the application was filed by recording on the application the date it was received by the CWA.

3.CWAs shall accept and process applications during a month(s) in which a reduction, suspension, or cancellation is in effect in accordance with the requirements in this subchapter. Benefits shall be issued in accordance with the requirements at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26(c).

(d)The CWA shall encourage households to file an application the same day the household or its representative contacts the certification office, in person or by telephone, and expresses interest in obtaining NJ SNAP assistance or indicates food insecurity. The CWA shall inform households that receiving NJ SNAP benefits will have no bearing on the time limits that apply to any other program and shall inform households that the requirements associated with applying for cash assistance do not apply for the NJ SNAP program.

1.If the household has contacted the certification office by telephone designated to accept that household's application but does not wish to come to the office to file the application that same day and instead prefers receiving an application through the mail, the CWA shall provide an application form to the household on the same day the telephone request is received. Additionally, the household shall be advised that a copy of the application may be obtained from the website maintained by the State of New Jersey, or it may be data-faxed. If the household has requested food assistance in writing, the CWA shall mail an application form or if requested, data-fax the form, to the household on the same day the written request is received.

2.If a household contacts the wrong certification office within the county, either in person or by telephone, that certification office shall, in addition to meeting the requirements at (d)1 above, give the household the address and telephone number of the appropriate office, explain how to file an application, and encourage the household to file its application in person, by mail or by electronic means at the appropriate office that same day. The certification office shall also offer to data-fax the household's application to the appropriate office that same day if the household has completed enough information to file. The household shall be informed that its application will not be considered filed and the processing standards shall not begin until the application is received by the appropriate office. If the household has mailed its request or application for food assistance to the wrong office, the certification office shall data-fax the request or application to the appropriate office on the same day.

(e)The CWA shall make application forms readily accessible to potentially eligible households and those groups and organizations involved in outreach efforts. The CWA shall also provide an application form or on-line copy of the application form for electronic filing to anyone who requests this form. Electronic signature techniques and hand-written signatures transmitted electronically are acceptable for signature identification.

(f)The CWAs shall post signs in each certification office which explain the application processing standards and the right to file an application on the day of initial contact. The CWA shall include similar information about same day filing in outreach materials.

(g)The household may voluntarily withdraw its application at any time prior to the determination of eligibility. The CWA shall document in the case record the reason for

withdrawal, if any was stated by the household, and that contact was made with the household to confirm the withdrawal. The household shall be advised of its right to reapply at any time subsequent to the withdrawal.

History

HISTORY:

As amended, R.1980 d.117, effective March 19, 1980.

See: 11 N.J.R. 517(a), 12 N.J.R. 194(b).

(c)2: Added second to last sentence; added "that same day" to previous sentence; made minor language changes.

As amended, R.1981 d.64, effective February 26, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 226(b).

(b)3 added.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1989 d.464, effective September 5, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1636(a), 21 N.J.R. 2790(a).

Date of application for applicants who are institutionalized is now the same as date of release from institution.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14

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§ 10:87-2.14 Household cooperation

To determine eligibility for program benefits, the application must be completed and signed, the household (or its authorized representative) interviewed, and certain information (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 and 2.20) must be verified. If the household refuses to cooperate with the CWA in completing this process, by refusing to be interviewed, not merely missing an appointment, the application shall be denied at the time of refusal.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Added reference to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Amended N.J.A.C. references in the first sentence and inserted "by refusing to be interviewed, not merely missing an appointment," preceding "the application shall be denied" in the second sentence.

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§ 10:87-2.15 Denial of eligibility for non-cooperation

For a determination of refusal to be made by the CWA, the household must be able to cooperate but clearly demonstrate that it will not take actions that it can take, to do what is required to complete the application process. For example, to be denied for refusal to cooperate, a household must refuse to be interviewed, not merely fail to appear for the interview. If there is any question as to whether the household has merely failed to cooperate as opposed to refused to cooperate, the household shall not be denied.

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§ 10:87-2.16 Subsequent refusal to cooperate

The household shall also be determined ineligible if it refuses to cooperate in any subsequent review of its eligibility, including reviews generated by reported changes and applications for recertification. Once denied or terminated for refusal to cooperate, the household may reapply but shall not be determined eligible until it cooperates.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1985 d.180, effective April 15, 1985 (operative May 1, 1985).

See: 17 N.J.R. 167(a), 17 N.J.R. 969(a).

Section substantially amended.

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§ 10:87-2.17 Refusal to cooperate with Quality Control reviews

(a)The household shall be determined ineligible if it refuses to cooperate in a State or Federal Quality Control review. If a household is terminated for refusal to cooperate with a quality control reviewer, the household may reapply but shall not be determined eligible until one of the following conditions is met:

- 1.The household cooperates with the reviewer; or
- 2.If a household that was terminated for refusal to cooperate with a State quality control reviewer reapplies after 95 days from the end of the annual review period, the household shall not be denied for its failure to cooperate with a State quality control reviewer during the completed review period, but must provide verification prior to certification, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(k). The annual review period ends on September 30 of each year.
- 3.If a household that was terminated for refusal to cooperate with a Federal quality control reviewer reapplies after seven months from the end of the annual review period, the household shall not be determined ineligible for its refusal to cooperate with a Federal quality control reviewer during the completed review period, but must provide verification in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(k) prior to certification. The annual review period ends on September 30 of each year.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1985 d.180, effective April 15, 1985 (operative May 1, 1985).

See: 17 N.J.R. 167(a), 17 N.J.R. 969(a).

Old text deleted and new text substituted.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Added (c).

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Revised rule to conform with Federal regulations, specifying household's responsibility to comply with Quality Control reviews.

Deleted prior (a)2 and (b)-(c), and added new (a)2 and (a)3.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (a), amended N.J.A.C. references throughout.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.18

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§ 10:87-2.18 Interview process

(a)All households certified for longer than 12 months, households with only earned income, households with no earned income, working poor households and households in which all members are elderly and/or disabled or those with hardship conditions shall be interviewed by a face-to-face interview, by phone or by a home visit. All applicant households (including those submitting applications by mail, data-fax or electronically) shall have either a face-to-face interview, telephone interview or home visit with a qualified eligibility worker, prior to initial certification and all recertifications. Additionally, a face-to-face interview shall be provided to any household that requests one. All interviews for NJ SNAP benefits shall meet the requirements at (b) through (g) below.

(b)The individual interviewed may be the head of household, spouse, any other responsible member of the household or an authorized representative. An applicant may bring any person he or she chooses to the interview. To the extent practicable, the CWA shall schedule the interview to accommodate the needs of groups with special circumstances, including working households. The language spoken in the home shall be accommodated.

(c)The interviewer shall not simply review the information which appears on the application but shall explore and resolve with the household any unclear and incomplete information. Households shall be advised of their rights and responsibilities during the interview, including an explanation of the processing standards and the household's responsibility to report changes.

1. The interviewer shall explain to the applicant the work registration and employment and training requirements and the consequences of a household member quitting his or her job or reducing wages or hours of work without good cause (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.6).

(d)The interview shall be conducted as an official and confidential discussion of household circumstances. The applicant's right to privacy shall be protected during the interview. Facilities shall be of adequate size and layout to preserve the privacy and confidentiality of the interview.

(e)The in-office interview or telephone interview shall be waived for any household, which is unable to appoint an authorized representative (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.7) and which has no adult household members able to come to the NJ SNAP office. The CWA shall conduct a home interview on a case-by-case basis for any household that reports it is unable to appoint an authorized representative and has no members able to come to the NJ SNAP office or available for a telephone interview because of transportation difficulties or similar hardships. The waiver of the face-to-face or telephone interview shall be documented in the case record.

1. Hardship conditions include but are not limited to: illness, care of a household member, hardships due to residency in a rural area, prolonged severe weather, or work hours which preclude an in-office certification. If a waiver is granted, the CWA shall document the reason for the determination in the case record.
2. The CWA has the option of conducting a telephone interview or a home visit for those households for whom the office interview is waived. Home visits shall be made only if the date and time of the interview is scheduled in advance at a mutually acceptable location with the household.
3. Waiver of the face-to-face interview does not exempt the household from the verification requirements, although special procedures may be used to permit the household to provide verification and thus obtain its benefits in a timely manner, such as substituting a collateral contact in cases where documentary evidence would normally be provided.
4. Waiver of the face-to-face interview shall not affect the length of the household's certification period.

(f)For households that are not interviewed on the day they submit their applications, the CWA shall schedule all interviews as promptly as possible in order to ensure that eligible households receive an opportunity to participate within 30 days after the application is filed. Initial applicants and recipients applying for recertification who cannot obtain certification services without missing time from work must be given appointments for such services. While appointments outside normal business hours are not required, CWAs are encouraged to offer them.

1. If a household fails to appear for the first interview, the CWA shall initiate action to schedule another interview. The interview shall be rescheduled without requiring the household to provide good cause for failing to appear. The CWA shall notify each household that misses its interview appointment that it missed the scheduled appointment and that the household is responsible for rescheduling the missed interview. The CWA shall reschedule if requested by the household. However, if the household does not appear for the rescheduled interview, the CWA need not initiate action to schedule any further interviews unless the household requests that another interview be scheduled. Additionally, a denial of benefits cannot take place prior to the 30th day after the filing of an application based on the fact that an appointment has been missed.

(g)For SSI jointly processed households as defined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.12(a)3, the SSA/DO shall conduct a single interview for both NJ SNAP benefits and SSI. Jointly processed

households shall not be required to see a CWA eligibility worker or otherwise be subjected to an additional interview by the CWA in order to obtain NJ SNAP benefits.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Section was Interviews.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

In (a), inserted ", households with only earned income, households with no earned income and households in which all members are elderly and/or disabled", inserted "a" preceding "home visit" and inserted "other"; in the introductory paragraph of (e), inserted "in-", inserted "in lieu of a telephone interview", inserted a comma preceding "which" twice and inserted "adult", deleted "because they are elderly or disabled as defined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34" from the end of the first sentence, and inserted the last sentence.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

Rewrote (a) and the introductory paragraph of (e); in (b), inserted the last sentence; and in (g), substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp" twice.

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§ 10:87-2.19 Mandatory verification

(a)The CWA shall verify the information in (b) through (m) below prior to certification for households initially applying for NJ SNAP benefits.

(b)Gross nonexempt income shall be verified for all households prior to certification. However, where all attempts to verify the income have been unsuccessful because the person or organization providing the income has failed to cooperate with the household and the CWA, and all other sources of verification are unavailable, the eligibility worker shall determine the amount to be used for certification purposes based on the best available information.

(c)The CWA shall verify the eligibility status of applicant aliens. For each household member identified on the application as an alien, the CWA shall determine if that member is an eligible alien (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.8) by requiring that the household present verification for each alien member.

1. Per 7 CFR 273.2(f)(1)(ii), the Department of Justice (DOJ) Interim Guidance On Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien Status and Eligibility Under Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Interim Guidance) (62 FR 61344, November 17, 1997) contains information on acceptable documents and USCIS codes. The CWA shall use the Interim Guidelines until DOJ publishes a final rule on this issue. Thereafter, the CWA should consult both the Interim Guidance and the DOJ final rule. Where the Interim Guidance and the DOJ final rule conflict, the latter should control the verification of alien eligibility.

2. The following information may also be relevant to the eligibility of some aliens: date of admission or date status was granted; military connection; battered status; if the alien was lawfully residing in the United States on August 22, 1996; membership in certain Indian tribes; if the person was age 65 or older on August 22, 1996; if a lawful permanent resident can be credited with 40 qualifying quarters of covered work and if any Federal means tested public benefits were received in any quarter after December 31, 1996; or if the alien was a member of certain Hmong or Highland Laotian tribes during a certain period of time or is a spouse or unmarried dependent of

such a person. The CWA shall also verify these factors if applicable to the alien's eligibility.

3.The SSA Quarters of Coverage History System (QCHS) is available for purposes of verifying whether a lawful permanent resident has earned or can receive credit for a total of 40 qualifying quarters. However, the QCHS may not show all qualifying quarters. For instance, SSA records do not show current year earnings and in some cases the last year's earnings, depending upon the time of request. Also, in some cases, an applicant may have work from uncovered employment that is not documented by SSA, but is countable toward the 40 quarters test. In both of these cases, the individual, rather than SSA, would need to provide the evidence needed to verify the quarters.

4.An alien is ineligible until acceptable documentation is provided, unless:

i.The CWA has submitted a copy of a document provided by the household to USCIS for verification. Pending such verification, the CWA cannot delay, deny, reduce or terminate the individual's eligibility for benefits on the basis of the immigration status;

ii.The applicant or the CWA has submitted a request to SSA for information regarding the number of quarters of work that can be credited to the individual, SSA has responded that the individual has fewer than 40 quarters, and the individual provides documentation from SSA that SSA is conducting an investigation to determine if more quarters can be credited. If SSA indicates that the number of qualifying quarters that can be credited is under investigation, the CWA shall certify the individual pending the results of the investigation for up to six months from the date of the original determination of insufficient quarters; or

iii.The applicant or the CWA has submitted a request to a Federal agency for verification of information which bears on the individual's eligible alien status. The CWA shall certify the individual pending the results of the investigation for up to six months from the date of the original request for verification.

5.The CWA shall provide alien applicants with a reasonable opportunity to submit acceptable documentation of their eligible alien status by the 30th day following the date of application. A reasonable opportunity shall be at least 10 days from the date of the CWA's request for an acceptable document. When the CWA fails to provide an alien applicant with a reasonable opportunity as of the 30th day following the date of application, the CWA shall provide the household with benefits no later than 30 days following the date of application, provided the household is otherwise eligible.

6.Aliens lawfully admitted as immigrants and aliens in continuous residence (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.8(a) shall present USCIS Form I-151 or Form I-551 "Alien Registration Receipt Card" or the "Re-entry Permit," a passport booklet for lawful permanent resident aliens.

7.Aliens in the categories specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.8(a)8 through 11 shall present a USCIS Form I-94, "Arrival--Departure Record." The CWA shall accept the USCIS Form I-94 only if it is annotated with Section 207, 208, 212(d)(5), or 243(h) of the

Immigration and Nationality Act; or if the form is annotated with one of the following terms or combination of terms: refugee, parolee, paroled, or asylum.

i.A USCIS Form I-94 annotated with the letters (A) through (L) shall be considered verification of ineligible status unless the alien can provide other documentation from BCIS which indicates the alien is eligible.

ii.If the USCIS Form I-94 does not bear any acceptable annotations and the alien has no other verification of alien classification in his or her possession; the CWA shall advise the alien to submit Form G-641, Application for Verification of Information from Immigration and Naturalization Service Records, to USCIS. The CWA shall accept this form when presented by the alien and properly annotated at the bottom by a USCIS representative as evidence of lawful admission for permanent residence or parole for humanitarian reasons. The alien shall also be advised that classification under Sections 207, 208, 212(d)(5) or 243(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall result in eligible status. Additionally, the alien shall also be advised that he or she may be eligible if acceptable verification is obtained and that the alien may contact USCIS or otherwise obtain the necessary verification. If the alien so wishes and signs a written consent, the CWA will contact USCIS to obtain clarification of the alien's status.

8.If an alien is unable to provide any USCIS document at all (not even a USCIS Form I-94), the CWA has no responsibility to offer to contact the USCIS on the alien's behalf. The CWA's responsibility exists only when the alien has a USCIS document that does not clearly indicate eligible or ineligible alien status. In any event, the CWA shall not contact USCIS to obtain information about the alien's correct status without the alien's written consent.

9.If the proper USCIS documentation is not available, the alien may state the reason and submit other conclusive verification. The CWA shall accept other forms of documentation or corroboration from USCIS that the alien is classified pursuant to Section 101(a)(15), 101(a)(20), 207, 208, 212(d)(5), 243 or 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or other conclusive evidence such as a court order stating that deportation has been withheld pursuant to Section 243(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

10.While awaiting acceptable verification, the alien whose status is questionable shall be ineligible. If the alien does not wish to contact USCIS or give permission for the CWA to contact USCIS, the household shall be given the option of withdrawing its application or participating without that member. The income and resources of the ineligible alien shall be treated in the same manner as an excluded individual as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.7(a) and shall be considered available in determining the eligibility of any remaining household members.

11.Whenever the CWA determines that any member of a household is ineligible to receive NJ SNAP benefits because he or she is present in the United States in violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act, that individual shall be reported to the local USCIS office. CWAs must make a distinction between aliens who are ineligible for the NJ SNAP program for various reasons and aliens who are in the United States

illegally. Only those aliens specifically determined by the USCIS to be illegal aliens shall be reported to USCIS by the CWAs.

i. When a household indicates inability or unwillingness to provide documentation of alien status for any household member, that member shall be classified as an ineligible alien.

(d) The CWA shall verify that the household incurs utility expenses that would qualify them for the appropriate utility standard. Households that qualify for a standard shall use the standard and cannot claim actual expenses. Households that are not entitled to either standard shall verify their actual expenses or sign the waiver. For households entitled to receive the Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowance (HCSUA) because they incur a cooling cost, a simple declaration on the application that the household is incurring such a cooling cost shall be sufficient.

1. If a household wishes to claim expenses for an unoccupied home, the CWA shall verify the household's actual utility expenses for the unoccupied home in every case and shall not use either of the utility allowances (as defined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20(c)1).

(e) The amount of any medical expense (including the amount of reimbursements) deductible under N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.10(a)3 shall be verified prior to initial certification. Verification of other factors including whether or not the services provided are allowable under N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.10(a)3i or the eligibility of the person incurring the cost, shall be required if questionable.

(f) Residency (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.2 and 3.3) shall be verified except in unusual cases (such as homeless household, some migrant farm worker households or households newly arrived in the county) when verification of residency cannot reasonably be established. Acceptable verification of residency should be accomplished, to the extent possible, in conjunction with the verification of other information, such as, but not limited to, rent and mortgage payments, shelter costs, utility expenses and identity. If verification cannot be accomplished in conjunction with the verification of other information, the CWA shall use a collateral contact or other readily available documentary evidence. Any documents or collateral contacts that reasonably establish the household's residency shall be accepted and no requirements for a specific type may be imposed (see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.4). No durational residency requirement shall be established.

(g) The identity of the person making application shall be verified. If an authorized representative applies on behalf of a household, the identity of both the authorized representative and the head of household shall be verified. Identity may be verified through readily available documentary evidence, or if that is unavailable, through collateral contact.

1. Examples of acceptable documentary evidence which the applicant may provide include, but are not limited to, a driver's license, a work, or school identification card, an identification for health benefits or for another assistance or social service program, a voter registration card, wage stubs, or a birth certificate. Any document which reasonably establish the applicant's identity must be accepted, and no requirement for a specific type of document may be imposed.

(h)Procedures for obtaining and verifying Social Security numbers are as follows:

1.The CWA shall verify the Social Security numbers (SSNs) provided by the household with the Social Security Administration (SSA) by submitting them through the management information system. Certification for, or issuance of benefits to, an otherwise eligible household shall not be delayed pending SSN verification. Once the SSNs have been verified, the CWA shall make a permanent annotation to the household case file to prevent unnecessary reverification of the SSN in the future. Social Security numbers previously verified by another program participating in the IEVS shall be acceptable to the CWA for NJ SNAP program participation.

2.The CWA shall require an individual who is unable to provide, or does not have, a Social Security number to submit an application for a SSN (Form SS-5) to the Social Security Administration. The CWA shall advise the household member that proof of application from the SSA will be required prior to certification. A completed SSA Form 2853 shall be considered proof of application for an SSN for a newborn infant. Refusal or failure without good cause to provide a Social Security number will result in disqualification of the individual for whom a SSN is not obtained.

i.If the county welfare agency determines that a household member has refused or failed without good cause to provide or apply for a SSN, then that individual shall be ineligible to participate in the NJ SNAP program. The disqualification applies to the individual for whom the SSN is not provided, and not to the entire household. The earned or unearned income and resources of an individual disqualified for failure to obtain or provide a SSN shall be counted as household income and resources.

3.Determining good cause procedures are as follows:

i.In determining if good cause exists, the CWA shall consider information from the household member, Social Security Administration and other State sources, that the household member has applied for, and/or made every effort to obtain a SSN from the Social Security Administration. Good cause does not include delays due to illness, lack of transportation or temporary absences, as the Social Security Administration makes provisions for mailing applications in lieu of applying in person. If a household member can show good cause why an application for a SSN has not been completed, that person shall be allowed to participate for one month in addition to the month of application. The CWA caseworker should make every effort to assist the individual in obtaining documents required to support an application for a Social Security number.

ii.Good cause for failure to apply must be shown monthly in order for a household member to continue participation. Once an application has been filed, the CWA shall permit the member to participate pending notification of the household member's SSN.

4.The disqualified household member(s) may end the disqualification and become eligible upon providing the CWA with a SSN.

5.The CWA is authorized to use SSNs in the administration of the NJ SNAP program and shall enter all SSNs obtained into the management information system. CWAs shall have access to information regarding individual NJ SNAP program applicants and participants who receive SSI benefits under Title XVI of the Social Security Act to determine such a household's eligibility for and level of NJ SNAP benefits, or to verify information related to benefits received by such households. The CWA shall also use the SSN(s) to prevent duplicate participation and to determine the accuracy and/or reliability of information given by households.

6.If a household is unable to immediately provide verification that it has applied for a SSN for a newborn, the household must provide the SSN or proof of application for the SSN either at its next recertification or within six months following the month in which the baby is born, whichever is later. If the household is unable to provide an SSN or proof of application for the SSN at its next recertification or within six months following the birth month, the CWA shall determine if the good cause provisions at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(h)3 are applicable.

(i)The CWA shall verify any factors affecting the composition of a household if questionable.

1.Individuals who claim to be a separate household from those with whom they reside shall be responsible for providing that they are a separate household to the satisfaction of the CWA.

2.Individuals who claim to be a separate household from those with whom they reside based on the various age and disability factors at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34, shall be responsible for proving such claims in accordance with (j) below.

(j)Disability determinations shall be processed as follows:

1.The CWA shall verify disability, as defined in N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34, as follows:

i.For individuals to be considered disabled under N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34(a) 2, 3 and 4, the household shall provide proof that the disabled individual is receiving benefits under Titles I, II, X, XIV, or XVI of the Social Security Act;

ii.For individuals to be considered disabled under N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34(a)6, the household shall present a statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) which clearly indicates that the disabled individual is receiving veteran's disability benefits for a service-connected or nonservice-connected disability and that the disability is rated or paid as total at the total rate by DVA;

iii.For individuals to be considered disabled under N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34(a)7 and 8, proof by the household that the disabled individual is receiving veteran's disability benefits is sufficient verification of disability;

iv.For individuals to be considered disabled under N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34(a)5 and 9, the CWA shall use the Social Security Administration's (SSA) most current list of disabilities considered permanent under the Social Security Act for verifying disability. If it is obvious to the caseworker that the individual has one of the listed disabilities, the household shall be considered to have verified disability. If disability is not obvious to the caseworker, the household shall provide a statement

from a physician or licensed or certified psychologist certifying that the individual has one of the nonobvious disabilities listed as the means for verifying disability under N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34(a)5 and 9;

v. For individuals to be considered disabled under N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34(a) 10, the household shall provide proof that the individual receives a Railroad Retirement disability annuity from the Railroad Retirement Board and has been determined to qualify for Medicare;

vi. For individuals to be considered disabled under N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34(a)11, the CWA shall verify that the individual receives the qualifying medical assistance identified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34(a)11.

2. For disability determinations which must be made relevant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2(a)4, the CWA shall use the SSA's most current list of disabilities as the initial step for verifying if an individual has a disability considered permanent under the Social Security Act. However, only those individuals who suffer from one of the disabilities mentioned in the SSA list who are unable to purchase and prepare meals because of such disability shall be considered disabled for the purpose of this provision. If it is obvious that the individual is unable to purchase and prepare meals because he or she suffers from a severe physical or mental disability, the individual shall be considered disabled for the purpose of the provision even if the disability is not specifically mentioned on the SSA list. If the disability is not obvious, the caseworker shall verify the disability by requiring a statement from a physician or licensed or certified psychologist certifying that the individual (in the physician or psychologist's opinion) is unable to purchase and prepare meals because he or she suffers from one of the nonobvious disabilities mentioned in the SSA list or is unable to purchase meals because he or she suffers from some other disease or nondisease-related disability. The elderly and disabled individual (or his or her authorized representative) shall be responsible for obtaining the cooperation of the individuals with whom he or she resides in providing the necessary income information about the others to the CWA for purposes of this provision.

(k) The CWA shall verify all factors of eligibility for households who have been terminated for refusal to cooperate with a State quality control reviewer, and reapply after 95 days from the end of the annual review period. The CWA shall verify all factors of eligibility for households who have been terminated for refusal to cooperate with a Federal quality control reviewer and reapply after seven months from the end of the annual review period.

(l) The agency shall obtain verification of the household's legal obligation to pay child support, the amount of the obligation, and the monthly amount of child support the household actually pays.

1. The household is the primary source of verification of the legal obligation to pay child support, the amount of the obligation, and the amount paid. Any document that verifies the obligation to pay child support, such as a court order, administrative order, or legally-enforceable separation agreement would be sufficient verification of the obligation and obligatory amount.

2. Documents that are accepted as verification of the household's legal obligation to pay child support shall not be accepted as verification of the household's actual monthly child support payments. Acceptable documentation of amounts paid would include canceled checks, ACSES data, wage withholding statements, verification of withholding from unemployment compensation, and statements from the custodial parent regarding direct payments or third party payments the noncustodial parent pays or expects to pay on behalf of the custodial parent. If the household fails or refuses to submit required verification, the CWA shall determine the household's eligibility and allotment without consideration of the child support deduction.

3. The information obtained through the review shall be used to determine the household's deduction for the new certification period. If the deduction is based upon an average of the past payments and recent data is available from the Child Support Program (CSP) records, those records can be used as the basis for anticipating future payments. CWAs are not required to conduct any month-by-month reconciliation of amounts reported by the household and CSP records. As the deduction will frequently be based on an average of past payments, the amount of the deduction might not compare exactly with the actual payments made. CWAs are not required to use the information retrospectively to establish claims or provide restored benefits.

4. Information from CSP records is considered unverified upon receipt. If there is a discrepancy between information provided by the household and that obtained from CSP records, the CWA shall give the household an opportunity to resolve the discrepancy.

(m) Rules concerning verification of educational expenses shall be as follows:

- 1.** In order to exclude educational assistance, educational expenses shall be identified as such by the financial aid office of the educational institution.
- 2.** An award letter from the school administering the educational assistance, which distinctly identifies anticipated educational expenses separate and apart from normal living expenses, shall be considered satisfactory verification for the purpose of determining countable student income. Additionally, an award letter or other document in which the "grantor" designates the funds for specific educational expenses shall be considered acceptable verification.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (h), added 6; and added (l) and (m).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, Interview process, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.18.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (a), deleted "following" preceding "information" and substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp"; in (c)1, substituted "CFR" for "C.F.R." and "USCIS" for "Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS)"; in (c)4i, (c)6, (c)7, (c)8, (c)(9), (c)10 and (c)11, substituted "USCIS" for "BCIS" throughout; in (c)11, substituted "NJ SNAP benefits" for "food stamps" and "NJ SNAP program" for "Food Stamp Program"; in (f), substituted the first occurrence of "established" for the first occurrence of "accomplished" and "that" for "which", and inserted a comma preceding and a comma following the second occurrence of "such as" and a comma following "limited to", and inserted "shelter costs,"; and rewrote (h)1, (h)2i and (h)5.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20

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New Jersey Administrative Code > TITLE 10. HUMAN SERVICES > CHAPTER 87. NEW JERSEY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NJ SNAP) MANUAL > SUBCHAPTER 2. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

§ 10:87-2.20 Verification of questionable information

(a)The CWA shall verify all other factors of eligibility not described at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 prior to certification only if they are questionable and affect the household's eligibility or benefit level. To be considered questionable, the information on the application must be inconsistent with statements made by the applicant, inconsistent with other information on the application or previous applications, or inconsistent with information received by the CWA prior to certification. When determining if information is questionable, the CWA shall base the decision on each household's individual circumstances. The fact that a household's expenses exceed its income may be grounds for a determination that further verification may be required. However, this fact shall not, in and of itself, be grounds for a denial. Additionally, these decisions shall not prescribe verification based on race, religion, ethnic background, or national origin, nor shall they target groups such as migrant workers or American Indians. The CWA shall instead explore with the household how it is managing, whether or not the household receives excluded income or has resources, and how long the household has managed under these circumstances. Certain special procedures described in this section shall be followed when information concerning one of the following eligibility requirements is questionable.

(b)When a household's statement that one or more of its members is a U.S. citizen is questionable, the household shall be asked to provide acceptable verification. Acceptable forms of verification include birth certificates, religious records, voter registration cards, or certificates of citizenship or naturalization provided by BCIS, such as Identification Cards for Use of Resident Citizens in the U.S. (BCIS Form I-179 or BCIS Form I-197) or U.S. Passports.

1.Participation in the WFNJ/TANF program shall be considered acceptable verification of citizenship if verification was obtained for that household for eligibility in that program.

2.If the above forms of verification cannot be obtained and the household can provide a reasonable explanation as to why verification is not available, the CWA shall accept a signed "Affidavit of Citizenship" from someone who is a U.S. citizen who declares, under penalty of perjury that the member in question is a U.S. citizen.

3.The member whose citizenship is in question shall be ineligible to participate until proof of United States citizenship is obtained. Until proof of United States citizenship is obtained, the member whose citizenship is in question shall have his or her income, less a pro rate share, and all of his or her resources considered available to any remaining household members as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.7(c).

(c)A household which is applying for NJ SNAP benefits has the responsibility to report all facts regarding its individual circumstances. It is especially important to advise the household that it must report and verify expenses it is incurring, particularly expenses that might entitle it to NJ SNAP income deductions. Households have the right to waive the reporting of expenses that will result in a deduction by signing the NJ SNAP Income Deduction Waiver included on the application form. Deductible expenses shall be verified if questionable and if allowing the expense would actually result in a deduction. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.10(a)7iv(1) and (2), the CWA shall verify that the household is entitled to a utility allowance.

1.Households which wish to claim shelter costs for a home that is unoccupied because of employment or training away from home, illness or abandonment caused by a natural disaster or casualty loss must provide verification of actual utility costs if the costs would result in a deduction. These households also are responsible for providing verification of any other shelter costs of the unoccupied home if the cost is questionable and it would result in a deduction. The CWA is not required to assist the household in obtaining verification of this expense if the verification would have to be obtained from a source outside the county.

2.If a deductible expense must be verified and obtaining the verification may delay the household's certification, the CWA shall advise the household that the household's eligibility and benefit level may be determined without providing a deduction for a claimed but unverified expense. Shelter costs would be computed without including the questionable and unverified components. The standard utility allowance shall be used if the household is entitled to claim it. If the expense cannot be verified within 30 days of the date of application, the CWA shall determine the household's eligibility and benefit level without providing a deduction for the unverified expense.

3.If the household subsequently provides the missing verification, the CWA shall redetermine the household's benefits, and provide increased benefits, if any in accordance with the timeliness standards on reported changes. The household shall be entitled to the restoration of any benefits lost as a result of the disallowance of the expense only if the expense could not be verified within the 30-day processing standard because the CWA failed to allow the household sufficient time (as defined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27(c) to verify the expense. If the household would be ineligible unless the expense is allowed, the household's application shall be handled as provided at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26 and 2.27.

(d)The CWA shall verify liquid resources and whether or not moneys received by the household are loans whenever such items are questionable.

1. When verifying that income is exempt as a loan, a legally binding agreement is not required. A simple statement signed by both parties which indicates that the payment is a loan with an established repayment schedule shall be sufficient verification.

2. If the household receives payments on a recurrent or regular basis from the same source but claims the payments are loans, the CWA may also require that the provider of the loan sign an affidavit which states that repayments are being made or that payments will be made in accordance with an established repayment schedule.

(e) These verification procedures shall be followed for those factors of eligibility which are needed solely for purposes of determining the household's eligibility for NJ SNAP benefits. For those factors of eligibility which are needed to determine both the WFNJ/TANF eligibility and NJ SNAP eligibility, the CWA may use the WFNJ/TANF verification rules. However, the CWA shall not delay the household's NJ SNAP benefits if, at the end of 30 days following the date the application was filed, the CWA has sufficient verification to meet NJ SNAP verification requirements but does not have sufficient verification to meet the WFNJ/TANF verification rules.

1. The CWAs shall check each household member by name through the ALFX file to verify that each individual is not already participating in the NJ SNAP program as part of another household. The ALFX file is an alphabetical listing, within the State's management information system, of the names of all individuals receiving WFNJ/TANF and NJ SNAP benefits in New Jersey. The ALFX file is available on computer terminal, and enables a worker to locate an individual's case record, when the case number is not known, by alphabetic cross-reference to all cases and recipients in the State.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1979 d.459, effective January 1, 1980.

See: 12 N.J.R. 40(c).

(a): Added 4, renumbered 4-5 as 5-6; changed internal references to conform.

Amended by R.1981 d.97, effective April 9, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 96(c), 13 N.J.R. 228(a).

(a)5iv deleted. Renumber (a)5v and vi as iv and v.

Amended by R.1983 d.72, effective February 28, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 97(a), 15 N.J.R. 444(a).

Originally filed as an emergency adoption (R.1982 d.503) on December 30, 1982. Changes upon readoption were precipitated by emergency adoption (R.1983 d.38) filed on January 31, 1983. Readopted as R.1983 d.72. Language has been added to include specific additional verification requirements for household composition.

Amended by R.1983 d.223, effective May 31, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 629(a), 15 N.J.R. 1033(a).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.116, eff. March 31, 1983, operative April 1, 1983. The amendment is pursuant to the Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-35).

Treatment of ineligible alien's resources and income and ineligibility until citizenship established was added.

Amended by R.1984 d.19, effective February 6, 1984.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1821(a), 16 N.J.R. 246(a).

Reference made to INS Form I-181-B; restrictions on use of INS Form I-94 and other clarifications regarding reporting of items.

Amended by R.1985 d.346, effective July 1, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 883(a), 17 N.J.R. 1659(a).

(a)10 added.

Correction: Deleted (a)iv and renumbered v and vi to iv and v.

See: 18 N.J.R. 2391(b).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.21, subsections (a)-(j). N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20, which was "Verification," was repealed. Old subsections (k)-(n) of N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.21 recodified as new subsection 2.21, "Verification of questionable information." Revised rule by deleting (i) regarding questionable information and recodifying (j) to (i).

Deleted old (j)3 and text in old (j)2 regarding elderly or disabled individuals, and added new (j) and (k) on disability determinations.

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (b)1 and (e), substituted references to WFNJ/TANF for references to AFDC.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.21 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20, Mandatory verification, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-2.21 Verification of Social Security and/or SSI using SDX/BENDEX

(a)The CWA shall ensure that the required verifications are obtained prior to certification. If documentary evidence of Social Security and/or SSI benefits is not readily available from the applicant, the CWA may verify the income through the Beneficiary Data Exchange (BENDEX) and/or the State Data Exchange (SDX). The CWA shall not verify wages through use of the BENDEX.

(b)The CWA may, however, use the BENDEX/SDX data to verify other NJ SNAP eligibility criteria provided the household is given an opportunity to verify the information from another source if the BENDEX/SDX information is contradictory to the household's information or is unavailable. However, determination of a household's eligibility and benefit level shall not be delayed beyond the application processing time standards (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26), if the BENDEX/SDX data are unavailable.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.22 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (a), deleted the fourth sentence; in (b), amended the N.J.A.C. reference in the second sentence. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.21, Verification of questionable information, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-2.22 Sources of verification

(a)The CWA shall use documentary evidence as the primary source of verification. Documentary evidence is written confirmation of a household's circumstances. Examples of documentary evidence include wage stubs, rent receipts and utility bills. Acceptable verification shall not be limited to any single type of document and may be obtained through the household or other source. Where information from another source contradicts statements made by the household, the household shall be immediately afforded the opportunity to resolve the discrepancy. Whenever documentary evidence cannot be obtained, the CWA shall use alternate sources of verification such as collateral contacts and home visits.

1.A collateral contact is a verbal confirmation of a household's circumstances by a person outside of the household. The collateral contact may be made either in person or over the telephone and shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.30(a)2. The acceptability of a collateral contact shall not be restricted to a particular individual but may be anyone who can be expected to provide an accurate third party verification of the household's statements. Examples of acceptable collateral contacts are employers, social service groups, migrant service agencies and neighbors of the household. Systems of records such as, but not limited to the SDX/BENDEX to which the CWA has routine access are not considered collateral contacts and, therefore, need not be designated by the household.

i.Home visits shall be used as verification only if documentary evidence cannot be obtained and the visit is scheduled in advance with the household. Home visits are to be used on a case-by-case basis where the supplied documentation is insufficient to make a firm determination of eligibility or benefit level. Simply because a household fits a profile of an error-prone household does not constitute lack of verification.

(b)When information from another source contradicts statements made by the household, the household shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to resolve the discrepancy prior to an eligibility determination.

(c)Responsibility for obtaining verification is as follows:

- 1.The household has primary responsibility for providing documentary evidence to support statements on the application and to resolve any questionable information. The CWA shall assist the household in obtaining this verification provided the household is cooperating with the CWA as specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14. Households may supply documentary evidence in person, through the mail, by data-fax, electronic data-transfer or through an authorized representative. However, the CWA shall not require the household to personally present verification at the NJ SNAP office. The CWA shall accept any reasonable documentary evidence provided by the household and shall be primarily concerned with how adequately the verification proves the statements on the application.
- 2.Whenever documentary evidence cannot be obtained, the CWA shall substitute a collateral contact or a home visit. The CWA shall rely on the household to provide the name of any collateral contact. The household may request assistance in designating a collateral contact. The CWA is not required to use a collateral contact designated by the household if the collateral contact cannot be expected to provide an accurate third party verification. When the collateral contact designated by the household is unacceptable, the CWA shall ask the household to designate another collateral contact. The CWA is responsible for obtaining verification from acceptable collateral contacts.
- 3.The CWA shall provide each household, at initial certification and recertification, with a Notice of Required Verification (Form NJ SNAP-33) if the household is required to provide information necessary to complete the certification process. That notice informs the household that the CWA will assist the household in obtaining the needed verification if the household encounters difficulty, and that failure to secure the required information may affect the household's eligibility for NJ SNAP benefits.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

In (d)1: stylistic changes and clarification with reference to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14.

Amended by R.1991 d.247, effective May 6, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 179(a), 23 N.J.R. 1412(b).

Added new (d)3.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.23 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.22, Verification of social security and/or SSI using SDX/BENDEX, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.21. Rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-2.23 Documentation

Case records must be documented to support eligibility, ineligibility, and benefit level determinations. Documentation shall be in sufficient detail to permit a reviewer to determine the reasonableness and accuracy of the determination. Where verification was required to resolve questionable information, the CWA shall document why the information was considered questionable and what documentation was used to resolve the questionable information. The CWA shall also document the reason why an alternate source of verification, such as a collateral contact or home visit, was needed and the reason a collateral contact was rejected and an alternate source requested.

History

HISTORY:

Repealed by R.1981 d.316, effective September 10, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 364(a), 13 N.J.R. 581(a).

New Rule R.1985 d.346, effective July 1, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 883(a), 17 N.J.R. 1659(a).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Old section ALFX file was repealed and this new section was recodified from 2.26.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.24 by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.23, Sources of verification, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.22.

End of Document

N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.24

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§ 10:87-2.24 Verification subsequent to initial certification

(a)At recertification, the CWA shall verify a change in income if the source has changed or the amount has changed by more than \$ 50.00. Previously unreported medical expenses, actual utility expenses and total recurring medical expenses which have changed by more than \$ 25.00, shall also be verified at recertification.

(b)The CWA shall not verify income if the source has not changed and if the amount is unchanged or has changed by \$ 50.00 or less, unless the information is incomplete, inaccurate, inconsistent or outdated. The CWA shall also not verify total medical expenses, or actual utility expenses claimed by households which are unchanged or have changed by \$ 25.00 or less, unless the information is incomplete, inconsistent, or outdated. Other information which has changed may be reverified at recertification. Unchanged information shall not be verified unless the information is incomplete, inconsistent, inaccurate, or outdated. Verification under this section shall be subject to the same verification procedures as apply to initial verification.

(c)Changes reported during the certification period shall be subject to the same verification procedures that apply at initial certification, except that the CWA shall not verify changes in income if the source has not changed and if the amount has changed by \$ 50.00 or less, unless the information is incomplete, inaccurate, inconsistent or outdated. The CWA shall also not verify total medical expenses or actual utility expenses if the amount has changed by \$ 25.00 or less, unless the information is incomplete, inconsistent, inaccurate, or outdated.

1.If the change reported is a change in household composition, the CWA shall verify through the ALFX system and the Disqualified Recipient Subsystem (DRS) that no household member is participating in the NJ SNAP program as part of another household (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20(e)).

(d)Newly obtained Social Security numbers shall be verified at recertification in accordance with verification procedures at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(h).

(e)The CWA shall require a household eligible for the child support deduction to verify any changes in the legal obligation to pay child support, the obligated amount, and the amount of

legally obligated child support a household member pays to a nonhousehold member. The CWA shall verify reportedly unchanged child support information only if the information is inaccurate, inconsistent, or outdated.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1979 d.459, effective January 1, 1980.

See: 12 N.J.R. 40(c).

Added medical expenses, clarified language, changed internal references to conform.

Amended by R.1985 d.346, effective July 1, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 883(a), 17 N.J.R. 1659(a).

(a)2i added.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Revised text to clarify when household must report changes in deductible expenses.

In (a): added language about medical expenses.

Revised text in (b) and deleted (b)1 regarding unchanged information.

In (c): added ". . . unless the information . . . outdated" to final sentence.

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

Added (e).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.28 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.24, Documentation, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.23.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

End of Document

N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.25

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§ 10:87-2.25 Denial of the application

Households that are found to be ineligible shall be sent a notice of denial as soon as possible, but not later than 30 days following the date the application was filed. If the household had failed to appear for two scheduled interviews and has made no subsequent contact with the CWA to express an interest in pursuing the application, the CWA shall send the household a notice of denial on the 30th day following the date of application. The household shall file a new application, if it wishes to participate in the Program. In cases where the CWA was able to conduct an interview and request all of the necessary verification on the same day the application was filed, and no subsequent requests for verification have been made, the CWA may also deny the application on the 30th day if the CWA provided assistance to the household in obtaining verification when required, as specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.22(c), but the household failed to provide the requested verification.

History

HISTORY:

New Rule, R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.29 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Amended the N.J.A.C. reference in the fourth sentence. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.25 repealed.

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

Updated the N.J.A.C. reference.

End of Document

N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26

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§ 10:87-2.26 Normal processing standard

(a)The CWA shall provide eligible households that submit a complete application an opportunity to participate as soon as possible, but not later than 30 calendar days after the application was filed. CWAs are required to provide the applicant with a copy of an electronically filed application. An application is considered filed the day the appropriate NJ SNAP office receives the application containing the applicant's name and address and signed by either a responsible member of the household or the household's authorized representative. For SSI jointly processed households, the application shall be considered filed for normal processing purposes when the signed application is received by the SSA district office. For residents of public institutions who jointly apply for NJ SNAP benefits and SSI under SSA's Prerelease Program for the Institutionalized, the application shall be considered filed for normal processing purposes when the resident is released from the institution. Households entitled to expedited processing are specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.28.

(b)An opportunity to participate consists of issuing benefits to the household's Families First account in accordance with any staggered issuance procedure which has been established by a CWA. The Families First card is the standard method of distributing NJ SNAP program benefits, serving also to provide cash benefits for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Debt Reduction Act child support bonus payments to eligible households.

1. At the time that a CWA certifies a household's eligibility to receive benefits, the State's automated case file and issuance system (also known as FAMIS), creates a Families First account on the Families First automated account network. A Families First card shall be made available to the household not later than 30 days after the application for NJ SNAP benefits, if eligible. The CWA then contacts the household for an initial training session and the selection of a Personal Identification Number (PIN). In no event shall the Families First card be mailed to the payee.
2. The replacement of NJ SNAP benefits or credit adjustments to NJ SNAP benefit accounts shall be carried out in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.8 and 9.9.
3. The replacement of lost or misplaced Families First cards shall be carried out in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.10 and 10:88-6.2.

(c)Determinations of eligibility shall be made in accordance with normal processing standards. For a household entitled to expedited processing as specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.30, issuance of benefits shall be made in accordance with the following provisions:

1.If a household is found to be eligible for benefits and a reduction is in effect, the amount of benefits shall be calculated based on the reduction formula provided by DFD.

2.If a household is found to be eligible for benefits while a suspension or cancellation is in effect, no benefits shall be issued to the household until issuance is again authorized by DFD.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R. 1980 d.117, effective March 19, 1980.

See: 11 N.J.R. 517(a), 12 N.J.R. 195(b).

Added (b)1.

Amended by R.1981, d.64, effective February 26, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 226(b).

(c) added.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Changed "35" to "34".

Amended by R.1989 d.464, effective September 5, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1636(a), 21 N.J.R. 2790(a).

Date of application for applicants who are institutionalized is now the same as date of release from institution. ID card provided at initial issuance. Provision for replacement benefits added at (b)2.

Amended by R.1991 d.247, effective May 6, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 179(a), 23 N.J.R. 1412(b).

In (b)1: changed "19th" to "15th" day. Added new (b)3.

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (b), inserted "either" following "with" and added ", or issuing benefits to the household's Families First account in accordance with any staggered issuance procedure which has been established by a CWA" at the end of the first sentence and substituted a reference to ATPs for a reference to benefits in the last sentence of the introductory paragraph, and rewrote 3.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.30 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26 repealed.

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

In the introductory paragraph of (b), deleted the final sentence.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27

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§ 10:87-2.27 Delays in processing

(a)If the CWA does not determine a household's eligibility and provide an opportunity to participate within 30 days of the date the application was filed, the CWA shall take action as indicated below.

(b)If the household has failed to appear for two scheduled interviews and has made no subsequent contact with the CWA to express interest in pursuing the application, the CWA shall send the household a notice of denial on the 30th day following the date of application. The household must file a new application if it wishes to participate in the program. See (c)5 below for households which express interest in pursuing the application after failing to appear for two scheduled interviews.

(c)The CWA shall determine the cause of the delay. A delay shall be considered the fault of the household if the household has failed to complete the application process even though the CWA has taken all the action required to assist the household. The CWA must have taken the following actions before a delay can be considered the fault of the household:

- 1.**For households which have failed to complete the application form, the CWA must have offered, or attempted to offer, assistance in its completion.
- 2.**If one or more members of the household have failed to register for work (as required at N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1), the CWA must have informed the household of the need to register for work and given the household at least 10 days from the date of notification to register those members.
- 3.**In cases where verification is incomplete, the CWA must have provided the household with a Notice of Required Verification (Form NJ SNAP-33), offered to assist the household in obtaining required verification, and allowed the household sufficient time to provide the missing verification.
- 4.**Sufficient time to provide missing verification shall be at least 10 days from the date of the CWA's initial request for the particular verification which was missing.

5.For households which have failed to appear for an interview, the CWA must have attempted to reschedule the initial interview within 30 days of the date the application was filed.

i.If the household has failed to appear for the first interview and a subsequent interview is postponed at the household's request or cannot otherwise be rescheduled until after the 20th day but before the 30th day following the date the application was filed, the household must appear for the interview, bring verification and register members for work by the 30th day. Otherwise, the delay shall be the fault of the household.

ii.If the household has failed to appear for the first interview and a subsequent interview is postponed until after the 30th day following the date the application was filed, the delay shall be the fault of the household.

iii.If the household has missed both scheduled interviews and requests another interview, any delay shall be the fault of the household.

(d)Delays that are the fault of the CWA include, but are not limited to those cases in which the CWA failed to take one or more of the actions described in (c) above.

(e)If, by the 30th day, the CWA cannot take any further action on the application due to the fault of the household, the household shall lose its entitlement to benefits for the month of application. The CWA must have offered, or have attempted to offer, assistance in the completion of the application.

1.On the 30th day, the CWA shall send a Notice of Denial to the household giving an additional 30 days to take the required action. Once the household takes the necessary action and submits the required information, the benefits will be prorated from the date the information is provided. If the household takes the required action within 60 days following the date that the application was filed, the CWA shall reopen the case without requiring a new application. No further action by the CWA is required after the Notice of Denial is sent if the household fails to take the required action within 60 days following the date the application was filed. That is, the case shall be closed and the household shall have the opportunity to reapply. The Notice of Denial shall include the following:

i.The action that the household must take to reactivate the application;

ii.That the case will be reopened without a new application if action is taken within 30 days of the date that the Notice of Denial was mailed;

iii.That the household must resubmit a new application if, at the end of the 30-day period, the household has not taken the needed action and wishes to participate in the program.

(f)Whenever a delay in the initial 30-day period is the fault of the CWA, the CWA shall take immediate corrective action. The CWA shall not deny the application if it caused the delay but shall instead notify the household by the 30th day after the application was filed that the application is being held pending. The CWA shall also notify the household of any action it must take to complete the application process.

1.If the household is found to be eligible during the second 30-day period, the household shall be entitled to benefits retroactive to the month of application. If, however, the household is found to be ineligible, the CWA shall deny the application.

(g)The following procedures apply as appropriate when a delay occurs in the second 30-day period.

1.If the CWA is at fault for not completing the application process by the end of the second 30-day period, and the case record is otherwise complete, the CWA shall continue to process the original application until an eligibility determination is reached.

i.If the household is determined eligible, and the CWA was at fault for the delay in initial 30-day period, the household shall receive benefits retroactive to the month of application.

ii.If the initial delay was the household's fault, the household shall receive benefits in the month following the month of application, retroactive to the date the information was received from the household. The CWA shall use the original application to determine the household's eligibility in months following the 60-day period.

2.If the CWA is at fault for not completing the application process by the end of the second 30-day period, but the case record is not sufficiently complete to reach an eligibility determination, the CWA shall continue to process the original application. If the household is subsequently determined eligible, the procedure in (g)1i above shall be used to determine entitlement for retroactive benefits.

3.If the household is at fault for not completing the application process by the end of the second 30-day period, the CWA shall deny the application and require the household to file a new application if it wishes to participate. The household shall not be entitled to any lost benefits even if the delay in the initial 30 days was the fault of the CWA.

4.The CWA shall not determine the household to be ineligible when a person outside of the household fails to cooperate with a request for verification. The CWA shall not consider individuals identified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3(a) and (c) as individuals outside of the household.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1985 d.346, effective July 1, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 883(a), 17 N.J.R. 1659(a).

(a)4ii and (a)6i(2) amended.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

In (c)3: added text to specify how CWA must assist households for which verification is incomplete.

Amended by R.1991 d.247, effective May 6, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 179(a), 23 N.J.R. 1412(b).

In (e)2 and (g)1ii revised specific time frames.

Added new (g)4.

Amended by R.1993 d.62, effective February 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3207(b), 25 N.J.R. 584(a).

In (c)3, added the Notice of Required Verification Form.

Amended by R.1995 d.135, effective March 6, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 4298(a), 27 N.J.R. 916(a).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.31 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27 repealed.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (c)3, substituted "NJ SNAP-33" for "FSP-33"; and in (g)1ii, substituted "in" for "retroactive to", and inserted ", retroactive to the date the information was received from the household".

N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.28

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§ 10:87-2.28 Expedited service

(a)The following households are entitled to expedited service:

1. Households with less than \$ 150.00 in monthly gross income, as computed at N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16 provided that the household's liquid resources (for example, cash on hand, checking or savings accounts, savings certificates and lump sum payments as described at N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)11) do not exceed \$ 100.00;
2. Migrant or seasonal farmworker households who are destitute as defined in N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.18 provided that the household's liquid resources (for example, cash on hand, checking or savings accounts, savings certificates and lump sum payments as described in N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)11) do not exceed \$ 100.00; and
3. Eligible households whose combined monthly gross income and liquid resources are less than the household's monthly rent or mortgage and utilities. When the CWA is determining the household's utility expenses for this purpose, it shall utilize the HCSUA as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.10(a)7iv.

(b)The CWAs application procedures shall be designed to identify households eligible for expedited service at the time of a request for NJ SNAP assistance. The household shall be prescreened for entitlement to expedited service. For example, a receptionist, volunteer or other agency employee shall screen applications as they are filed or as individuals come in to apply.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1983 d.121, effective April 4, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 247(a), 15 N.J.R. 625(b).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.38, eff. January 31, 1983. The amendment was pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Amendments of 1981 (P.L. 97-98, Title 13).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (a), deleted a former 3, and recodified former 4 as 3 and added a second sentence.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.32 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (a)1, amended N.J.A.C. references throughout. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.28, Verification subsequent to initial certification, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.24.

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

In (a)3, substituted "appropriate utility allowance as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.10(a)7iv" for "Standard or Heating Utility Allowance at N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.10(a), as appropriate", and "is able" for "elects".

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

In (a)1 and (a)2, updated the N.J.A.C. references; and in (a)3, inserted "an" preceding "actual", substituted "expense" for the second occurrence of "expenses" and inserted the last sentence.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

Rewrote (a)3; and in (b), substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp".

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.29

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§ 10:87-2.29 Expedited service processing standards

(a)For households entitled to expedited service, the CWA shall make available to the recipient a NJ SNAP benefit not later than the seventh calendar day following the date an application was filed in the appropriate NJ SNAP office. For residents of public institutions who apply for SSI under SSA's Prerelease Program for the Institutionalized, expedited benefits shall be made available within seven calendar days following the date of the resident's release from the institution.

(b)For residents of substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation centers and residents of group living arrangements (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.8(b)3 and 7.9(c)3) who are entitled to expedited service, the CWA shall make a benefit available to the recipient no later than the seventh calendar day following the date an application was filed.

(c)If a household is entitled to expedited service and is also entitled to a waiver of office interview (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.18(e)), the CWA shall conduct the interview (unless the household cannot be reached) and complete the application process within the expedited service standards. The first day of this count is the calendar day following application filing.

1.If the application is not complete, and the CWA conducts a telephone interview and must mail the application to the household for signature, the mailing time involved will not be counted toward the expedited service standards. Mailing time shall only include the days the application is in the mail to and from the household and the days the application is in the household's possession pending signature and mailing.

(d)If the prescreening required in this section fails to identify a household as being entitled to expedited service and the CWA subsequently discovers that the household is entitled to expedited service, the CWA shall provide such service within the processing standards above except that the processing standard shall be calculated from the date the CWA discovers the household is eligible for expedited service.

(e)Residents of shelters for battered women and children who are otherwise entitled to expedited service shall be handled within the time limits specified in this section.

History

HISTORY:

As amended, R.1982, d.473, eff. January 3, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1037(a), 15 N.J.R. 34(a).

Residents of group living facilities added.

As amended, R.1983 d.121, eff. April 4, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 247(a), 15 N.J.R. 625(b).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.38, eff. January 31, 1983. The amendment was pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Amendments of 1981 (P.L. 97-98, Title 13).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Original section 2.33 "Identifying households needing expedited service" repealed and 2.34 recodified to 2.33 and substantially amended.

Amended by R.1989 d.464, effective September 5, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1636(a), 21 N.J.R. 2790(a).

Expedited benefits available to clients five days after release from institution.

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (a), substituted references to seven calendar days for references to five calendar days throughout, substituted a reference to food stamp benefits for a reference to ATP cards in the first sentence, and added "If an ATP is being issued," at the beginning of the last sentence.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.33 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.29, Denial of the application, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.25.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.30

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§ 10:87-2.30 Special procedures for expediting service

(a)The CWA shall use the following procedures when expediting certification and issuance.

1.In order to expedite the certification process, the CWA shall use the following verification procedures:

i.In all cases the applicant's identity shall be verified through a collateral contact or readily available documentary evidence:

(1)Examples of acceptable documentary evidence which the household may provide include, but are not limited to, a driver's license, work or school I.D. card, voter registration card, or birth certificate.

ii.All reasonable efforts shall be made to verify, within the expedited processing standards, the household's residency, income statements (including a statement that the household had no income), liquid resources, eligibility for the utility allowance and all other verification factors required at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 and 2.20 through collateral contacts or readily available documentary evidence:

(1)Benefits shall not be delayed beyond the delivery standards prescribed at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.29 solely because these eligibility factors have not been verified;

iii.CWAs shall attempt to obtain as much additional verification as possible during the interview, but shall not delay the certification of households entitled to expedited service for the full time frame prescribed at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.29 when the CWA has determined it is unlikely that other verification can be obtained within the expedited processing standards; and

iv.Households entitled to expedited service shall be asked to furnish or apply for a Social Security number for each household member before the first full month of participation. Those household members unable to provide the required SSNs or who do not have one prior to the first full month of participation shall be allowed to continue to participate only if they satisfy the good cause requirement specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.21.

v. Migrant households determined eligible for expedited service after the 15th of the month and assigned a certification period of more than one month shall be notified in writing of the following:

(1) Postponed certification from sources within the state must be provided before the second full month's benefits will be issued.

(2) Postponed verification from out-of-state sources must be provided before the third full month's benefits will be issued.

vi. Migrant households shall be entitled to a postponement of out-of-State verification only once each season. If the household has already been granted a postponement of out-of-State verification, such verification may be postponed for the initial month's benefits only.

vii. If verification results in a change in the household's eligibility or benefit level, the CWA shall act on the change without advance notice.

2. Once the household has supplied the name of a collateral contact or has asked the CWA for assistance in locating one, the CWA shall promptly contact the collateral contact or otherwise assist the household in obtaining the necessary verification. When speaking with a collateral contact, CWAs shall disclose only pertinent information. The CWA shall not state that the person is applying for or receiving NJ SNAP benefits, nor shall it volunteer household information or discuss any suspicion of wrong-doing.

3. Households which are certified on an expedited basis and have provided all necessary verification required at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 and 2.20 prior to certification shall be assigned an appropriate certification period (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.20 and 6.21). If verification is postponed, the CWA shall certify these households for the month of application (the month of application and the subsequent month for those households applying after the 15th of the month) or, at the option of the CWA, shall assign the appropriate certification period warranted by the household's circumstances. However, in no event shall benefits be continued past the month of application if verification is not obtained. Federally mandated reduction, suspension, or cancellation of allotments in a given month shall have no effect on the certification periods assigned to households.

i. If certified only for the month of application, the household must reapply and complete the verification requirements which were postponed.

ii. If a certification period longer than one month is assigned, the CWA shall notify the household in writing that no further benefits will be issued until the postponed verification is completed and that if the postponed verification is not completed within 30 days of the date of application, the household's application will be denied. The notice shall also advise the household that if verification results in changes in the household's eligibility or level of benefits, the CWA shall act on those changes without an advance notice of adverse action. When households which applied for benefits after the 15th of the month provide the postponed verification, the CWA shall issue the second month's benefits within five working

days from receipt of the verification or the first of the second month, whichever is later.

iii. There is no limit to the number of times a household can be certified under expedited procedures, so long as prior to each expedited certification the household either completes the verification requirements which were postponed at the last expedited certification or was certified under normal processing standards since the last expedited certification.

iv. Households requesting, but not entitled to, expedited service shall have their applications processed according to normal standards.

4. Households eligible to receive expedited processing which apply for program benefits during a month in which a reduction, suspension, or cancellation is in effect, shall have their cases processed in accordance with the above procedures, subject to the following provisions:

i. Households which receive expedited service in a month in which a reduction is in effect and which are determined to be eligible, shall be issued allotments that are reduced in accordance with the reduction in effect. The reduced allotments shall be made available to the households within the time frame specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.29.

ii. Households which receive expedited service in a month in which a suspension is in effect and that are determined to be eligible, shall have benefits issued within the time frame specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.29 unless the suspension is still in effect at the time issuance is to be made.

iii. Households eligible to receive expedited processing which apply for benefits during a month in which cancellation is in effect shall receive expedited service. However, the deadline for completing the processing of such cases shall be five days or the end of the month of application, whichever date is later. All other regulations pertaining to expedited service shall be applicable to these cases.

5. The CWA shall at a minimum, require the applicant to register for work unless exempt.

i. The CWA shall attempt to register other household members (including the head of household, if an authorized representative is making application) but shall postpone the registration of such household members if it cannot be accomplished within expedited processing standards. The CWA may attempt registration of other household members by:

(1) Requesting the applicant (or authorized representative) complete the work registration forms for other household members to the best of his/her ability; or

(2) Accomplishing work registration for other household members in a timely manner through other means, such as contacting the household.

ii. The CWA may attempt to verify questionable work registration exemptions, but such verification shall be postponed if expedited processing standards cannot be met.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1981 d.64, effective February 26, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 226(b).

(a)3: "February nondated . . . households" added.

(a)4 added.

As amended on an emergency basis, R.1981 d.398, eff. September 30, 1981 (Oper. October 1, 1981), exp. November 30, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a).

Readopted, R.1981 d.517, eff. December 31, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 769(a), 14 N.J.R. 103(a).

(a)3: added "the CWA shall certify . . . 15th of the month or at" and "option of the";

(a)3ii: added "when households . . . whichever is later."

Amended by R.1983, d.121, effective April 4, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 247(a), 15 N.J.R. 625(b).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.38, eff. January 31, 1983. The amendment was pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Amendments of 1981 (P.L. 97-98, Title 13).

Amended by R.1985 d.346, effective July 1, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 883(a), 17 N.J.R. 1659(a).

(a)iv. through vii. added.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended and recodified from 2.35.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

In (a)1.ii and (a)3, added "2.20" to N.J.A.C. 10:87 reference.

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (a)1ii, inserted a reference to eligibility for utility allowances in the introductory paragraph.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.30, Normal processing standard, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26.

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

In (a)3, substituted "an appropriate" for "a normal" preceding the first occurrence of "certification period" and "appropriate" for "normal" preceding the second occurrence of "certification period", and inserted "and 6.21" following the second N.J.A.C. reference.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In the introductory paragraph of (a)1ii, substituted "the utility allowance" for "utility allowances,"; and in (a)2, substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp".

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.31

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New Jersey Administrative Code > TITLE 10. HUMAN SERVICES > CHAPTER 87. NEW JERSEY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NJ SNAP) MANUAL > SUBCHAPTER 2. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

§ 10:87-2.31 WFNJ/TANF eligibility determination (PA households)

(a) Action on the NJ SNAP portion of the application shall not be delayed nor the application denied on the grounds that the WFNJ/TANF eligibility determination has not been made.

1. If the CWA can anticipate the amount and date of the initial WFNJ/TANF grant, but the grant will not be received until a subsequent month, the CWA shall vary the household's NJ SNAP benefit level according to the anticipated receipt of payment and notify the household.
2. Portions of initial WFNJ/TANF payments intended to retroactively cover a previous month shall be disregarded as income and considered as lump-sum payments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)13.
3. If the amount or date of receipt of the initial WFNJ/TANF payment cannot be reasonably anticipated at the time of NJ SNAP eligibility determination, the WFNJ/TANF payments shall be treated as a change in circumstances.
4. The CWA is not required to send a notice of adverse action if the receipt of the WFNJ/TANF grant reduces or terminates the household's NJ SNAP benefits, provided the household is notified in advance that its benefits may be reduced or terminated when the grant is received.
5. A household whose WFNJ/TANF application is denied shall not be required to file a new NJ SNAP application but shall have its NJ SNAP eligibility determined or continued on the basis of the original application filed jointly for WFNJ/TANF and NJ SNAP purposes and any other documented information obtained subsequent to the application which may have been used in the PA determination and which is relevant to NJ SNAP eligibility or level of benefits.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1981 d.97, effective April 9, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 96(c), 13 N.J.R. 228(a).

(a)2: N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)10 was (a)9.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Recodified with amendments from 2.36.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

In (a)5: added text "filed jointly . . . purposes" regarding applications.

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (a), substituted references to WFNJ/TANF for references to AFDC throughout.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.35 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Deleted the introductory phrases throughout; in (a)2, amended the N.J.A.C. reference. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.31, Delays in processing, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27.

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

In (a)2, inserted "income and considered as".

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.32

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New Jersey Administrative Code > TITLE 10. HUMAN SERVICES > CHAPTER 87. NEW JERSEY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NJ SNAP) MANUAL > SUBCHAPTER 2. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

§ 10:87-2.32 Categorically eligible WFNJ/TANF/SSI households

(a)Any household, except those listed in (c) below, in which all members are authorized to receive WFNJ/TANF/SSI benefits shall be considered categorically eligible for the NJ SNAP program, unless the household is institutionalized or disqualified for any reason from receiving NJ SNAP benefits. This includes the following households: those in which all members receive or are authorized to receive cash through a public assistance program funded in full or in part with Federal Title IV-A or New Jersey State money counted as Maintenance of Effort (MOE) purposes; those in which all members receive or are authorized to receive non-cash or in-kind benefits, funded with more than 50 percent State money counted as MOE or Federal money under Title IV-A designed to forward purposes one and two of the TANF block grant; and those in which all members receive or are authorized to receive non-cash or in-kind benefits, funded with more than 50 percent State money designed to forward purposes three and four of the TANF block grant, and requires participants to have a gross monthly income at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level.

1.Residents of public institutions applying jointly for SSI and NJ SNAP benefits shall not be categorically eligible upon a finding by the Social Security Administration (SSA) of potential SSI eligibility prior to release. Those individuals shall be considered categorically eligible when a final SSI eligibility has been made and the individual has been released from the institution.

2."Authorized to receive" means that an individual is considered a recipient if he or she has been determined eligible for WFNJ/TANF/SSI, but, is not receiving a money payment, chooses not to receive a money payment, or, is not currently entitled to a money payment.

3.Categorically eligible recipients shall include those persons determined eligible to receive WFNJ/TANF/SSI but currently not entitled to cash benefits; that is, persons whose benefits are being recovered and/or suspended subject to retrospective budgeting when the household is temporarily ineligible in a prior budget month, and WFNJ/TANF recipients whose benefits are less than \$ 10.00 and are therefore not payable.

4.A household containing a member who is suspended from SSI for noncompliance with substance abuse treatment requirements shall not be categorically eligible for NJ SNAP benefits. The household's NJ SNAP eligibility would be calculated without including any SSI benefit as income for the suspended individual. (SSI installments are not issued during the suspension period.) The household cannot be considered categorically eligible as SSI recipients again until that individual either ends his or her suspension, resumes receipt of SSI or leaves the household.

5.A household whose TANF grant has been capped by the birth of an additional child is categorically eligible for NJ SNAP benefits.

(b)For any household that is otherwise categorically eligible, no person shall be included as a member of that household if that person fits any of the following categories:

- 1.An ineligible alien as defined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.9;
- 2.An ineligible student as defined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3(a)2;
- 3.Institutionalized in a non-exempt facility (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.4);
- 4.Ineligible because of failure to comply with a work requirement of N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1; or
- 5.When determining benefit levels for households containing ineligible individuals, the income and resources of such ineligible members shall be treated in accordance with procedures at N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.7.

(c)No household shall be considered categorically eligible for NJ SNAP benefits if any member of that household is disqualified for the following reasons:

- 1.An intentional program violation (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-11); or
- 2.Such households are subject to all NJ SNAP eligibility criteria and benefit determination provisions and cannot be reinstated in the Program on the basis of categorical eligibility provisions.

(d)The factors that are deemed for NJ SNAP eligibility without the verification required at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 and 2.20 because of WFNJ/TANF/SSI status are the following:

- 1.Gross and net income limits;
- 2.Resource limits;
- 3.Social Security number information;
- 4.Sponsored alien information; and
- 5.Residency.

(e)If any of the following factors are questionable, the CWA shall verify, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20, that the household, which is considered categorically eligible contains the following:

- 1.Meets the definition of a household in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2;

2.Includes all persons who purchase and prepare food together in one NJ SNAP household regardless of whether or not they are separate units for WFNJ/TANF or SSI purposes; and

3.Includes no person disqualified as specified in (c) above (see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1 and 11.2).

(f)The exemptions concerning work registration in the NJ SNAP ETP shall be applied to individuals in categorically eligible households. Individuals(s) not exempt from work registration shall be subject to work requirements contained at N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1.

(g)Households in which all members are applying for WFNJ/TANF/SSI shall be allowed to apply for NJ SNAP benefits at the same time they apply for WFNJ/TANF/SSI benefits. Such households' NJ SNAP eligibility and benefit level shall be based on NJ SNAP eligibility criteria. Households, whether jointly processed and/or eligible because of their WFNJ/TANF/SSI status, shall be certified in accordance with the notice, procedural and timeliness requirements at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.25 through 2.33. The otherwise eligible household is not subject to the processing requirement of any other assistance program as a condition of NJ SNAP program eligibility.

(h)Households applying for both WFNJ/TANF and NJ SNAP benefits shall complete a joint application for both programs. The joint application shall clearly indicate those particular questions that need to be answered relevant to the NJ SNAP program and that the household is subject to the criminal penalties of both programs for making false statements.

(i)For households applying for both WFNJ/TANF cash assistance and NJ SNAP benefits, the verification procedures described at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 and 2.20 shall be followed for those factors of eligibility which are needed solely for purposes of determining the household's eligibility for NJ SNAP benefits. For those factors of eligibility that are needed to determine both WFNJ/TANF cash assistance eligibility and NJ SNAP benefit eligibility, the CWA may use the WFNJ/TANF cash assistance verification rules.

1.However, the CWA shall not delay the household's NJ SNAP benefits if, at the end of 30 days following the date the application was filed, the CWA has sufficient verification to meet the NJ SNAP verification requirements, but insufficient verification to meet the WFNJ/TANF verification rules.

(j)In order to determine if a household will be eligible due to its status as a recipient WFNJ/TANF/SSI household, the CWA may temporarily postpone, within the 30-day processing standard, the NJ SNAP eligibility determination, if the household is not entitled to expedited service and appears to be categorically eligible. However, the CWA shall postpone denying a potentially categorically eligible household until the 30th day, in the event that the household is determined eligible to receive WFNJ/TANF/SSI benefits.

1.Once the WFNJ/TANF/SSI application is approved, the household is to be considered categorically eligible if it meets all categorical eligibility criteria.

2.If the CWA can anticipate the amount and the date of receipt of the initial WFNJ/TANF/SSI payment, but the payment will not be received until a subsequent month, the CWA shall vary the household's NJ SNAP benefit level according to the anticipated receipt of the payment and notify the household. Portions of initial

WFNJ/TANF/SSI payments intended to retroactively cover a previous month shall be disregarded as lump sum payments.

3. If the amount or date of receipt of the initial WFNJ/TANF/SSI payment cannot be reasonably anticipated at the time of the NJ SNAP eligibility determination, the WFNJ/TANF/SSI payments shall be handled as a change in circumstances.

(k) The CWA is not required to send a notice of adverse action if the receipt of the WFNJ/TANF/SSI grant reduces, suspends or terminates the household's NJ SNAP benefits, provided the household is notified in advance that its benefits may be reduced, suspended or terminated when the grant is received. The case may be terminated if the household is not categorically eligible.

(l) The CWA shall ensure that a denied application of a potentially categorically eligible household is easily retrievable, in the event that the household is subsequently found to be categorically eligible.

(m) For a household filing a joint application for NJ SNAP and WFNJ/TANF/SSI benefits, or a household that has an WFNJ/TANF/SSI application pending and is denied NJ SNAP benefits, but is later determined eligible to receive WFNJ/TANF/SSI benefits and is otherwise categorically eligible, the CWA shall provide benefits using the original application and any other pertinent information occurring subsequent to that application, except for residents of public institutions who apply for WFNJ/TANF/SSI benefits prior to their release from the public institution. Benefits shall be paid from the beginning of the period for which WFNJ/TANF/SSI benefits are paid or the original NJ SNAP application date, whichever is later.

1. The CWA shall not reinterview the household, but shall use any available information to update the application and/or make mail or phone contact with the household or authorized representative to determine any changes in circumstances. Changes shall be initialed and the updated application resigned by the authorized representative or household member.

(n) Any household determined WFNJ/TANF/SSI eligible that is categorically eligible within the 30-day NJ SNAP processing time shall be provided benefits in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26. Benefits shall be prorated in accordance with current procedures at N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.5. However, no NJ SNAP benefits shall be paid for a month in which such household is ineligible for receipt of WFNJ/TANF/SSI benefits, unless the household is eligible as an NPA case.

(o) Households that file joint applications that are found categorically eligible after being denied NPA NJ SNAP benefits shall have their allotment for the initial month prorated from the date from which the PA benefits are payable or the date of the original NJ SNAP application, whichever is later.

(p) The CWA shall act on reevaluating the original application either at the household's request or when it becomes otherwise aware of the household's WFNJ/TANF and/or SSI eligibility. The household shall be informed on the notice of denial to notify the CWA if its WFNJ/TANF or SSI benefits are approved. Households who file joint applications for NJ SNAP and WFNJ/TANF/SSI benefits and are subsequently denied may be required to file a

new NJ SNAP application or have their NJ SNAP eligibility determined or continued on the basis of the original applications.

(q)The CWA shall notify households of the need for a new application. If a required new application is filed within 30 days of the original application, the filing date of the new application shall be the filing date of the original joint application.

(r)Households whose WFNJ/TANF/SSI applications are denied shall not be required to file a new NJ SNAP application, but shall have their NJ SNAP eligibility determined or continued on the basis of the original applications. The CWA may, in evaluating NJ SNAP eligibility or benefit levels, use any other documented information obtained subsequent to the application, which may have been used in the WFNJ/TANF/SSI determination.

(s)Categorical eligibility shall be assumed at recertification in the absence of a timely WFNJ/TANF redetermination. If a recertified household is subsequently terminated from WFNJ/TANF benefits, the procedures at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.35 or 9.5 shall be followed, as appropriate.

History

HISTORY:

New rule R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1989 d.464, effective September 5, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1636(a), 21 N.J.R. 2790(a).

Cross-reference to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.30 added.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Stylistic and structural changes throughout to conform with Federal regulations regarding eligibility for food stamp benefits of AFDC and SSI recipient households.

Added new (a)1 and renumbered 1-3 as 2-4, with no change in text.

Added head of household text at (c)3.

Added new provision at (o) regarding ineligibility status of AFDC/SSI recipients.

Added new (s) and (t).

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (a), substituted a reference to WFNJ for a reference to AFDC in the introductory paragraph, and added 5.

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

Substituted references to WFNJ/TANF for references to AFDC throughout; in (a), rewrote 4; and in (c), deleted a former 2, and recodified former 3 and 4 as 2 and 3.

Amended by R.1983 d.121, effective April 4, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 247(a), 15 N.J.R. 625(b).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.38, eff. January 31, 1983. The amendment was pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Amendments of 1981 (P.L. 97-98, Title 13).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (a), deleted a former 3, and recodified former 4 as 3 and added a second sentence.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.36 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.32, Expedited service, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.28.

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

In (a), substituted "food stamp benefits" for "food stamps", and deleted "Not included are:" from the end; in (a)2, inserted quotation marks around "Authorized to receive", substituted ", but, is not receiving a money payment, chooses not to receive a money payment," for "but has not yet received", and deleted the comma following "entitled to"; in (a)4, substituted "food stamp benefits" for "food stamps"; in (b)2, deleted "or" from the end; added new (b)4; recodified existing (b)4 as (b)5; rewrote (c)2; in (h), substituted "food stamp benefits" for "food stamps"; in (i), substituted "food stamp benefits" for "food stamps" twice, and inserted "benefit" preceding "eligibility"; in (m), substituted "food stamp" for "food stamps" following "joint application for" and "food stamp benefits" for "food stamps"; in (o), substituted "food stamp benefits" for "food stamps", and substituted "allotment" for "benefits"; and in (p), substituted "food stamp" for "food stamps" following "joint application for", and inserted "benefits".

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

Added (a)5.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

Substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp" throughout; in the introductory paragraph of (a), substituted "NJ SNAP program" for "Food Stamp Program"; in (a)4, deleted a comma following the final occurrence of "SSI"; in (c)1, substituted "); or" for ".1 et seq.);"; deleted former (a)2;

recodified (a)3 as (a)2; in the introductory paragraph of (d) and (i) and in (h) and (n), substituted "that" for "which"; in (e)3, deleted "10:87-" preceding "11.2"; in (f), substituted "NJ SNAP ETP" for "food stamp employment and training program"; in (j)3, inserted "of" following "date"; and in (k), deleted a comma following "suspended".

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New Jersey Administrative Code > TITLE 10. HUMAN SERVICES > CHAPTER 87. NEW JERSEY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NJ SNAP) MANUAL > SUBCHAPTER 2. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

§ 10:87-2.33 Procedures for SSI jointly processed households

(a)Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is defined as Federal SSI payments made under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, federally administered optional supplementary payments under section 1616 of that Act, or federally administered mandatory supplementary payments made under section 212(a) of Public Law 93-66. Households may apply and be certified for NJ SNAP benefits in accordance with the procedures described herein and with the notice, procedural and timeliness requirements of the Food Stamp Act.

1. Households applying simultaneously for SSI and NJ SNAP benefits shall be eligible to receive benefits based solely on NJ SNAP eligibility criteria until the household is considered categorically eligible. Households denied NPA NJ SNAP benefits that have an SSI application pending shall be informed on the notice of denial of the possibility of categorical eligibility should they become SSI recipients.

(b)The Social Security Administration District Office (SSA/DO) will inform households eligible for SSI joint processing (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.12(a)3) of their right to apply for NJ SNAP benefits at the SSA/DO without going to the NJ SNAP office and will refer all other households to the appropriate NJ SNAP office. The SSA/DO will accept and complete the NJ SNAP Application received from households eligible for SSI joint processing and forward them within one working day to the appropriate CWA. Along with the NJ SNAP Application, the SSA/DO will forward a Social Security Administration Transmittal for NJ SNAP Application (Form SSA-4233) which documents all verification obtained by the SSA employee.

1. During a telephone interview, if the SSA/DO takes an initial or redetermination application for SSI, an NJ SNAP Application will also be completed. In these cases an NJ SNAP Application will be mailed to the claimant for signature to be returned to the SSA/DO or CWA. The SSA/DO will then forward any NJ SNAP application it receives to the appropriate NJ SNAP office. The CWA may not require the household to be interviewed again in the NJ SNAP office (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.22(d)1). SSI recipients who are redetermined for SSI by mail will be sent a notice informing them of their right to file an NJ SNAP application at the SSA/DO or their local NJ SNAP office and have

an out-of-office interview performed by the CWA if the household is unable to appoint an authorized representative.

2.The SSA/DO will prescreen all applications for entitlement to expedited service on the day received, and will mark "Expedited Processing" on the SSA-4233 for all households which appear to be so entitled. The SSA/DO will inform such households that benefits may be issued a few days sooner if they apply directly at the NJ SNAP office. The household may take the application from the SSA/DO to the NJ SNAP office for screening and interview, and processing of the application.

3.Residents of public institutions who apply for SSI under SSA's Prerelease Program for the Institutionalized may complete a joint application for SSI/NJ SNAP prior to release from the institution, and are subject to the same provisions applicable to all other jointly processed SSI households, with the following exceptions:

i.The 30-day processing standard described at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26 to deliver benefits to a prerelease applicant shall be based upon the date the individual is released from the institution, rather than the date the application is filed at the CWA.

ii.A prerelease applicant who is entitled to expedited service shall be provided NJ SNAP benefits no later than the seventh calendar day following the date of release from the institution.

iii.A prerelease applicant's benefit level for the initial month of certification shall be based on the day of the month the resident is released from the institution.

(c)Jointly processed SSI households which have received an NJ SNAP notice of expiration (Form NJ SNAP-907A) and who appear at an SSA/DO for an SSI redetermination shall be entitled to make a timely application for NJ SNAP recertification at the SSA/DO office.

(d)The CWA receiving NJ SNAP applications from SSA for SSI households are required to determine if any member of the SSI household is currently participating in the NJ SNAP program.

(e)The CWA shall ensure that information required at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, 2.20, and 2.21 is verified prior to certification for households initially applying for NJ SNAP benefits. Households shall be provided the opportunity to provide verification from another source if all necessary SSI benefit payment information is not available on/through the State Data Exchange (SDX) or Beneficiary Data Exchange (BENDEX) (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.21).

(f)Households identified as categorically eligible where all members of the household receive SSI and where such households require expedited service shall be handled in accordance with the provisions at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.30.

(g)An applicant or recipient of social security benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act shall be informed by the SSA/DO of the availability of benefits and an application at the SSA office. Interviews and application processing is not required by the SSA/DO unless an eligibility worker has been outstationed at the SSA office.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1989 d.464, effective September 5, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1636(a), 21 N.J.R. 2790(a).

Provisions for applicants who are residents of public institutions added at (b)3.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Stylistic changes in (f).

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (b), substituted references to FSP 901 for references to FSP 901A in the introductory paragraph and 1.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.37 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.33, Expedited service processing standards, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.29.

Administrative change and correction.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34

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New Jersey Administrative Code > TITLE 10. HUMAN SERVICES > CHAPTER 87. NEW JERSEY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NJ SNAP) MANUAL > SUBCHAPTER 2. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

§ 10:87-2.34 Elderly or disabled household members

(a)An elderly or disabled member of an NJ SNAP household is defined as a member who:

1. Is 60 years of age or older;
2. Receives supplemental security income benefits under Title XVI of the Social Security Act or disability or blindness payments under Titles I, II, X, XIV, or XVI of the Social Security Act;
3. Receives federally or State-administered supplemental benefits under section 1616(a) of the Social Security Act, provided that the eligibility to receive the benefits is based upon the disability or blindness criteria used under Title XVI of the Social Security Act;
4. Receives federally or State-administered supplemental benefits under section 212(a) of P.L. 93-66;
5. Receives disability retirement benefits from a governmental agency because of a disability considered permanent under section 221(i) of the Social Security Act;
6. Is a veteran with service-connected or non-service-connected disability rated by the Veteran's Administration (VA) as total or paid as total by the VA under Title 38 of the United States Code;
7. Is a veteran considered by the VA to be in need of regular aid and attendance or permanently housebound under Title 38 of the United States Code;
8. Is a surviving spouse of a veteran and considered by the DVA to be in need of regular aid and attendance or permanently housebound or a surviving child of a veteran and considered by the VA to be permanently incapable of self-support under Title 38 of the United States Code;
9. Is a surviving spouse or surviving child of a veteran and considered by the VA to be entitled to compensation for a service-connected death or pension benefits for a nonservice-connected death under Title 38 of the United States Code and has a disability considered permanent under section 221(i) of the Social Security Act.

"Entitled" as used in this definition refers to those veterans' surviving spouses and surviving children who are receiving the compensation or pension benefits stated or have been approved for such payments, but are not yet receiving them;

10.Receives an annuity payment under section 2(a)(1)(iv) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 and is determined to be eligible to receive Medicare by the Railroad Retirement Board; or section 2(a)(1)(v) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 and is determined to be disabled, based upon the criteria used under Title XVI of the Social Security Act; or

11.Receives medical assistance benefits as a disabled individual under:

- i.**Medicaid Only (Aged, Blind, and Disabled);
- ii.**AIDS Community Care Alternatives Program;
- iii.**Community Care Program for the Elderly and Disabled;
- iv.**Model Waivers I, II, or III (Medicaid Community/Home Care Waivers);
- v.**Home Care Expansion Program;
- vi.**Medically-Needy Program; or
- vii.**New Jersey Care Program.

(b)A pilot project is established to provide outreach efforts to assist elderly New Jersey residents receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to make it easier to access and to apply for NJ SNAP benefits. The name of the pilot is the Simplified Nutritional Assistance for Seniors (SNAS) program. Eligibility criteria for the SNAS program is as follows:

1.The individual is receiving SSI and is:

- i.**Age 65 or older;
- ii.**Not currently receiving NJ SNAP benefits;
- iii.**Living alone;
- iv.**Not in receipt of earned income; and
- v.**A New Jersey resident; and

2.CWAs will access a quarterly report from iACquire, which will identify SSI residents of their county who meet SNAS eligibility criteria. The CWAs shall be responsible for mailing a simplified application form with a return envelope to those SSI recipients in their county.

- i.**Interested applicants will mail the signed application back to the originating CWA.
- ii.**Applicants who do not wish to participate will be directed to check off a specific box on the cover letter stating that they do not wish to enroll in SNAS.
- iii.**Applications will be processed without a face-to-face or telephone interview.
- iv.**SNAS cases will not be expedited and will be certified for 24 months.

v. SNAS recipients will be mailed a new application form in the 23rd month, which will notify the household that their benefits will stop if the form is not returned by the 24th month.

vi. There is no proration of benefits in SNAS.

vii. SNAS project cases will receive a monthly benefit allotment.

viii. SNAS recipients may opt out of SNAS and may apply for NJ SNAP benefits under the application project for the regular NJ SNAP program.

History

HISTORY:

R.1983 d.72, eff. February 28, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 247(a), 15 N.J.R. 444(a).

Originally filed as an emergency adoption (R.1983 d.38) on February 22, 1983. Readopted as R.1983 d.72.

Amended by R.1985 d.707, effective January 21, 1986 (operative February 1, 1986).

See: 17 N.J.R. 2521(b), 18 N.J.R. 193(b).

Deleted "Licenses" and substituted "Is certified for".

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Repealed old text and substituted new.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Stylistic revisions and added new (a)11.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.38 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34, Special procedures for expediting service, recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.30.

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

Added (b).

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.35

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§ 10:87-2.35 Categorically eligible WFNJ/GA households

(a)Any household, except those listed in (c) below, in which all members are authorized to receive WFNJ/GA cash benefits shall be considered categorically eligible for the NJ SNAP program. Households comprised entirely of those recipients, as specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.32, shall be categorically eligible for NJ SNAP benefits.

(b)No individual shall be included as a member of an otherwise categorically eligible WFNJ/GA household if that individual is:

- 1.An ineligible alien, as defined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.9;
- 2.A student that does not meet the criteria at N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.14;
- 3.Disqualified for failure to provide or apply for a Social Security Number, as required by N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.15;
- 4.Disqualified for failure to comply with a work registration requirement;
- 5.Disqualified for Intentional Program Violation; or
- 6.A resident of a non-exempt institution.

(c)A household shall not be considered as WFNJ/GA categorically eligible if:

- 1.It refuses to cooperate in providing information to the CWA which is necessary for making a determination of its eligibility or for completing any subsequent review of its eligibility;
- 2.The household is ineligible under the striker provisions; or
- 3.The household is ineligible because it knowingly transferred resources for the purpose of qualifying or attempting to qualify for the NJ SNAP program.

(d)In determining whether a household is categorically eligible, the CWA shall verify that each member receives WFNJ/TANF, SSI, or WFNJ/GA benefits, and that it includes no individuals who have been disqualified as described at (b) above. The CWA shall also verify household composition if it is questionable in order to determine that the household meets the definition of a household at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2.

(e)When determining the eligibility of a WFNJ/GA categorically eligible household, all NJ SNAP program requirements shall apply except the following:

1. None of the provisions at N.J.A.C. 10:87-4, Financial Eligibility: Resources, apply to categorically eligible households, with the exception of N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.1(b) (categorical eligible provision) and 4.14 through 4.19 (transfer of resources). The provision at N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.8 shall not be applied to categorically eligible households;
2. With the exception of N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.1(b), none of the provisions of N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.1 (gross and net income limits) apply to categorically eligible households;
3. The CWA shall deny the application of a household which is otherwise program eligible, but is entitled to no benefit because its net income results in a calculation of zero benefit; and
4. Sponsored alien information, which otherwise is required at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(c) and 7.11.

History

HISTORY:

New Rule, R.1993 d.62, effective February 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3207(b), 25 N.J.R. 584(a).

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

Substituted references to WFNJ/GA for references to GA throughout; and in (a) and (d), substituted references to WFNJ/TANF for references to AFDC.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.39 and amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.35, WFNJ/TANF eligibility determination (PA households), recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.31.

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

In (b)4, substituted "Disqualified" for "A household member not the household head, disqualified"; deleted (c)2; and recodified (c)3 through (c)4 as (c)2 through (c)3.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (a), (c)3, and the introductory paragraph of (e), substituted "NJ SNAP program" for "Food Stamp Program"; and in (a), inserted "cash", and substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp".

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§ 10:87-2.36 Expanded categorical eligibility

(a)A household shall be eligible for NJ SNAP benefits when the gross income of that household is less than 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Participants do not have to meet the net income test; however, certain deductions will be taken to determine the NJ SNAP benefit amount. Resources are not to be considered in determining eligibility for NJ SNAP benefit eligibility in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.1(b). Each participant/household shall be given a brochure at the time of application, which will describe the services available for needy families.

(b)No person shall be included as a member of a household if that person fits any of the categories at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.32(b) and (c).

(c)When determining benefit levels for households containing ineligible individuals, the income of such ineligible members shall be treated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.7.

(d)The CWA shall verify information in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20 to determine if the household is considered an expanded categorically eligible household when any of the following factors are questionable:

- 1.The definition of a household is met in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2;
- 2.All persons who purchase and prepare food together are included in one NJ SNAP household; or
- 3.The household includes no disqualified person as specified in (c) above.

(e)The exemptions concerning work registration in the NJ SNAP ETP shall be applied to individuals in expanded categorically eligible households. Individual(s) not exempt from work registration shall be subject to work requirements at N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1.

History

HISTORY:

New rule R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1989 d.464, effective September 5, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1636(a), 21 N.J.R. 2790(a).

Cross-reference to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.30 added.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Stylistic and structural changes throughout to conform with Federal regulations regarding eligibility for food stamp benefits of AFDC and SSI recipient households.

Added new (a)1 and renumbered 1-3 as 2-4, with no change in text.

Added head of household text at (c)3.

Added new provision at (o) regarding ineligibility status of AFDC/SSI recipients.

Added new (s) and (t).

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (a), substituted a reference to WFNJ for a reference to AFDC in the introductory paragraph, and added 5.

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

Substituted references to WFNJ/TANF for references to AFDC throughout; in (a), rewrote 4; and in (c), deleted a former 2, and recodified former 3 and 4 as 2 and 3.

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.32 by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Section was "Categorically eligible WFNJ/TANF/SSI households".

New Rule, R.2010 d.027, effective January 19, 2010.

See: 41 N.J.R. 3190(a), 42 N.J.R. 482(b).

Section was "Reserved".

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (a) and (d)2, substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp" throughout; in (a), updated the N.J.A.C. reference; in (d)3, substituted "no" for "a"; and in (e), substituted "NJ SNAP ETP" for "food stamp employment and training program".

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§ 10:87-2.37 (Reserved)

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1989 d.464, effective September 5, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1636(a), 21 N.J.R. 2790(a).

Provisions for applicants who are residents of public institutions added at (b)3.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Stylistic changes in (f).

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (b), substituted references to FSP 901 for references to FSP 901A in the introductory paragraph and 1.

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.33 by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Section was "Procedures for SSI jointly processed households".

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.38

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§ 10:87-2.38 (Reserved)

History

HISTORY:

R.1983 d.72, eff. February 28, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 247(a), 15 N.J.R. 444(a).

Originally filed as an emergency adoption (R.1983 d.38) on February 22, 1983. Readopted as R.1983 d.72.

Amended by R.1985 d.707, effective January 21, 1986 (operative February 1, 1986).

See: 17 N.J.R. 2521(b), 18 N.J.R. 193(b).

Deleted "Licenses" and substituted "Is certified for".

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Repealed old text and substituted new.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Stylistic revisions and added new (a)11.

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.34 by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Section was "Elderly or disabled household members".

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§ 10:87-2.39 (Reserved)

History

HISTORY:

New Rule, R.1993 d.62, effective February 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3207(b), 25 N.J.R. 584(a).

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

Substituted references to WFNJ/GA for references to GA throughout; and in (a) and (d), substituted references to WFNJ/TANF for references to AFDC.

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.35 by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Section was "Categorically eligible WFNJ/GA households".

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§ 10:87-3.1 Applicability

Nonfinancial eligibility factors in this section shall apply equally to all applicant households (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 and 2.20 for verification requirements).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 New Jersey Register 139(a), 22 New Jersey Register 1599(a).

Added "2.20" to N.J.A.C. 10:87 reference.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 New Jersey Register 28(a), 36 New Jersey Register 2425(a).

Amended the N.J.A.C. references.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.2

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§ 10:87-3.2 Residency in the county

(a)A household must be a resident of the county in which it files an application for participation. No individual may participate as a member of more than one household, or more than one county, in any month except as provided for in this section.

(b)Residents of shelters for battered women and children may participate in the program as a member of more than one household or in more than one county as a separate household in any month if the previously certified household of which they were members also contains the person who subjected them to abuse. (See also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.4(a)4.)

1. Shelter residents who are included in such certified households may receive an additional allotment as a separate household only once a month.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1982 d.473, effective January 3, 1983.

See: 14 New Jersey Register 1037(a), 15 New Jersey Register 34(a).

Treatment of battered women and children.

Amended by R.1984 d.17, effective February 6, 1984.

See: 15 New Jersey Register 1821(a), 16 New Jersey Register 246(a).

Reference to N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.8 deleted.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 New Jersey Register 28(a), 36 New Jersey Register 2425(a).

In (b), deleted "Residents of shelters for battered women and children:", added the N.J.A.C. reference.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.3

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New Jersey Administrative Code > TITLE 10. HUMAN SERVICES > CHAPTER 87. NEW JERSEY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NJ SNAP) MANUAL > SUBCHAPTER 3. ELIGIBILITY FACTORS OTHER THAN NEED

§ 10:87-3.3 Determination of residency

(a)For purposes of the NJ SNAP program, a person shall be considered a resident in the place in which he or she actually lives, without regard to legal residence or intent to remain permanently. There shall be no requirement that a person reside in the county for a specified period of time prior to application. A fixed residence is not required; for example, migrant campsites satisfy the residency requirement.

1.The residency requirement shall be verified except in unusual cases such as homeless households, migrant farmworker households or households newly arrived to the project area where verification of residency cannot reasonably be accomplished.

(b)A person temporarily visiting the county solely on vacation shall not be considered a resident.

1.As a result of the interoperability of EBT, a client from one state can transact benefits out-of-State. In addition, under simplified reporting (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(a)), households are not required to report that they have moved. However, each particular case has to be treated on its own merits. It is perfectly plausible that a person might regularly spend his or her NJ SNAP benefits in a neighboring state. If a person is cashing benefits out-of-State for a period of at least three consecutive months, the CWA shall verify if the person is still living in New Jersey and if the person is receiving SNAP benefits at that location. A person living in New Jersey, cashing NJ SNAP benefits in Florida for a period of time during the six-month period, would not be required to report it on simplified reporting. However, if questionable it should be verified.

2.If EBT data shows a client is spending his or her benefits three consecutive months in another state, the CWA shall not close the case per se. The CWA shall, however, verify if the client still has residence in New Jersey and whether the client is receiving SNAP benefits in that other state. Also, the CWA shall contact the state where the client is redeeming his or her benefits to find out if there is a duplicate participation issue.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Added (a)1.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (b), deleted "Vacationer excluded:".

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In the introductory paragraph of (a), substituted "NJ SNAP program" for "Food Stamp Program"; and added (b)1 and (b)2.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.4

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§ 10:87-3.4 Recording applicant's address

The county welfare agency shall be responsible for recording the applicant's correct address, or location where the applicant may be contacted, in the case record. Confidentiality for persons participating in the Address Confidentiality Program shall be maintained in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.14. The CWA shall not require an otherwise eligible household to reside in a permanent dwelling or have a fixed mailing address as a condition of eligibility.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 New Jersey Register 28(a), 36 New Jersey Register 2425(a).

Added second sentence.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.5

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§ 10:87-3.5 Citizenship or permanent alien status

To receive program benefits, the applicant shall be either a United States citizen or a qualified eligible alien.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

Substituted "a qualified" for "an".

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.6

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§ 10:87-3.6 U.S. citizen defined

For the purposes of N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.5, the United States shall be defined as the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Swain's Island, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Citizenship shall be verified only if questionable in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20(b).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 New Jersey Register 139(a), 22 New Jersey Register 1599(a).

Revised N.J.A.C. 10:87 reference to 2.20(c).

Amended by R.1991 d.247, effective May 6, 1991.

See: 23 New Jersey Register 179(a), 23 New Jersey Register 1412(b).

Revised N.J.A.C. citation.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 New Jersey Register 28(a), 36 New Jersey Register 2425(a).

Amended N.J.A.C. reference.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.7

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§ 10:87-3.7 Eligible alien

(a) Qualified aliens who have been lawfully admitted for permanent U.S. residence and/or who are permanently and lawfully residing in the U.S. shall be eligible for participation in the NJ SNAP program. For a specific listing of aliens eligible for program benefits, see N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.8.

(b) The presence of a person in the household who is ineligible for participation in the program because of his or her alien status shall not prevent the remainder of the household from being certified for program benefits, if eligible (see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(c)).

(c) If the household is comprised of minors (who are eligible for participation in the program) and an adult member who is ineligible for program benefits because of his or her alien status, such adult may make application on behalf of the remaining members of the household. However, if there is another adult in the household who is eligible for benefits, that person shall make application.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Revised N.J.A.C. 10:87 reference to 2.20(c).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (b), deleted "Ineligible alien as a member of the household" and amended the N.J.A.C. reference; in (c), deleted "Ineligible alien as applicant".

Amended by R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

Substituted "Qualified aliens" for "alien".

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-3.8 Eligible aliens defined

(a) A documented alien is an individual with "documentation," supplied by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which supports the alien being in the United States. An undocumented alien is an individual who has no "documentation," supplied by USCIS to indicate his or her alien status.

(b) Immigrants shall meet the following two requirements to be eligible for NJ SNAP benefits in addition to other program requirements:

1. Be in a qualified alien category; and
2. Meet a condition that allows qualified aliens to get NJ SNAP benefits.

(c) A qualified alien in the context of NJ SNAP benefit eligibility is defined as an individual who falls into one of the categories required for qualified alien status (see (d) and (e) below).

(d) The following qualified aliens shall be eligible for participation in the NJ SNAP program, with the provision that all other eligibility requirements are met. If any of the qualified aliens listed at (d)1 through 5 below change their alien status to a qualified alien listed at (e) below, they would retain their exempt status and would not have to meet one of the special qualifying conditions at (f) below. The date of entry would remain at the original date of entry and not the date of the change of status.

1. An asylee, granted under Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), P.L. 101-649, 8 U.S.C. §§ 1101 et seq.
2. A refugee admitted under 8 U.S.C. § 1157. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 requires trafficking victims to be treated as refugees;
3. A deportee whose deportation is withheld under 8 U.S.C. §§ 1253(h) or 1251(b)3;
4. A Cuban or Haitian Entrant as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 11522, the Alien Refugee Education Assistant Act of 1980; and
5. An Amerasian Immigrant under 8 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq., the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Program Appropriations Act.

(e)The following list of qualified aliens shall be required to meet one of the special criterion listed in (f) below to be eligible for participation in the NJ SNAP program:

- 1.A battered spouse, battered child, parent or child of a battered person with a petition pending under 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(B)(ii) or (iii), or 8 U.S.C. § 1254(a)3 providing that the individual responsible for the battery or cruelty is not residing in the same household as the individual subjected to the battery or cruelty;
- 2.A lawfully admitted alien for permanent residence (I-551 form) (holders of green cards);
- 3.A paroled alien under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5) for at least one year; and
- 4.An alien granted conditional entry under 8 U.S.C. § 1153(a)7.

(f)The four qualified aliens listed under (e) above shall meet one of the special criteria listed below in order to be eligible to participate in the NJ SNAP program.

- 1.He or she is a lawfully admitted for permanent residence (LPR), who can be credited with 40 quarters of work (which is allowed to include the sum of LPR, plus parent and spouse);
- 2.He or she is a member of the military or has a military connection (veteran, active duty, spouse and children);
- 3.He or she is lawfully in the U.S., regardless of date of entry and under 18 years of age;
- 4.He or she is lawfully in the U.S., regardless of date of entry and receiving disability benefits;
- 5.He or she is lawfully in the U.S. on August 22, 1996 and 65 years of age or older on August 22, 1996; or
- 6.He or she is lawfully in the U.S. as a qualified alien, for at least five years.

(g)The following procedures regarding eligible aliens are to be followed:

- 1.To obtain history of immigrant status, ask client for his or her USCIS form G845-Supplement;
- 2.In order to be eligible for the NJ SNAP program, qualified aliens who are not immediately eligible, pursuant to (e)1 through 4 above, shall be required to meet special criteria listed under (f) above;
- 3.Persons are considered disabled for NJ SNAP purposes if they are receiving or certified to receive SSI, interim assistance pending SSI, Social Security disability, Federal or State disability retirement benefits for a permanent disability, veteran's disability benefits, or railroad retirement disability. In addition, persons receiving disability-related Medicaid, State or Federal supplemental assistance, and disability-related State General Assistance benefits may be considered disabled for NJ SNAP purposes if they are determined disabled using Federal SSI criteria. State General Assistance or medical programs that use a medical practitioner's statement in order to

determine that an immigrant meets the SSI disability criteria shall meet the disability criteria under the NJ SNAP program.

4. For both six-month reporting and change reporting cases, if the CWA is aware of an alien child turning 18 years old during the certification period at the time the household is last recertified, the CWA shall act on the change according to N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5. The CWA shall determine if the child remains eligible based on other NJ SNAP criterion as found at N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.8(f). If the household is on change reporting, the household is required to report the change within 10 days.

(h) The following aliens are eligible to participate in the NJ SNAP program, even if they are not qualified aliens, and are eligible for an indefinite period of time.

1. Certain Hmong or Highland Laotians (spouse and children); and

2. American Indians born in Canada to which Section 289 of INA (8 U.S.C. § 1359) applies, and members of an Indian tribe as defined in Section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (cross-border Indians) (25 U.S.C. § 450b(e)).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1984 d.17, effective February 6, 1984.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1821(a), 16 N.J.R. 246(a).

Qualifying dates in regard to conditional entry, added.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

Revised N.J.A.C. 10:87 reference to 2.20(c).

Amended by R.1993 d.62, effective February 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3207(b), 25 N.J.R. 584(a).

In (a)8, provides for restored benefits to temporary residents. Added (b).

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Repeal and New Rule, R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

Section was "Eligible aliens; listing".

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

In the introductory paragraph of (d), substituted "(d)1" for "1" preceding "through 5"; and in (d)2, inserted "The" and substituted "2000" for "2002".

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.9

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§ 10:87-3.9 Ineligible aliens

(a)The following aliens are not eligible to participate in the NJ SNAP program:

1. Visitors, tourists, students and diplomats;
2. Aliens residing under Color of Law.
 - i. "Color of law" means aliens that are in the United States prior to January 1, 1972, under statutory authority and those allowed to remain in the United States by administrative discretion;
3. Undocumented aliens. Undocumented aliens are persons who either:
 - i. Entered the United States without inspection at the border; or
 - ii. Were lawfully admitted but have lost their status;
4. Aliens who have applied for eligible status, but who have not yet been approved; and
5. Aliens whose status is questionable or unverified.

(b)The CWA shall report to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) a household member who has applied and who is ineligible to receive NJ SNAP benefits, when that person is known to be in violation of the Immigration and Naturalization Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. The reporting containing the name, address, and other identifying information shall be submitted no later than the 45th day of the calendar quarter after which it was discovered. As there are four calendar quarters in a given year, that is, March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31, the identifying information shall be submitted by April 15, August 14, November 14 or February 14, respectively. The information shall be reported to: Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, 425 I Street NW-Room 4034, Washington, DC 20536 (USCIS No. 2070-00).

1. Illegal aliens who must be reported are only those applicants who the CWA knows are in violation of residency requirements, based on a finding of fact or as a conclusion of the law, which is supported by an official determination of the USCIS.

The status of known illegal aliens may also be officially determined based on a review by the Executive Office of the USCIS, and supported by a Final Order of Deportation. Only the United States Department of Justice can make a determination of an alien's legal status. No other agency is so charged. The requirement to report a known illegal immigrant is not applicable to anyone who is not part of the household or is not applying for assistance. Applicants may be informed that the CWA is required to report illegal aliens to the USCIS in cases where the USCIS has made the determination that the alien is in the country illegally.

2. When a person indicates inability or unwillingness to provide documentation of alien status, the CWA shall classify that person as an ineligible alien. In such cases the CWA agency shall not continue efforts to obtain that documentation and shall not report that individual to the USCIS.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Repeal and New Rule, R.2007 d.129, effective May 7, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4374(a), 39 N.J.R. 1719(a).

Section was "Ineligible aliens".

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

In (a)2i, inserted "prior to January 1, 1972,"; in the introductory paragraph of (a)3, inserted "Undocumented aliens are persons who are either:"; and added (a)3i and (a)3ii.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-3.10 Income and resources of ineligible aliens and individuals whose citizenship is questionable

The income and resources of an ineligible alien, or individual whose citizenship is questionable, who would be considered a member of a household if he or she did not have ineligible alien status or questionable citizenship status shall be considered in determining eligibility and level of benefits of the household in the same manner as the income and resources of an excluded individual as specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.7(c).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1983 d.223, eff. May 31, 1983.

See: 15 New Jersey Register 629(a), 15 New Jersey Register 1033(a).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.116, eff. March 31, 1983, operative April 1, 1983. The amendment is pursuant to the Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-35).

Language added referring to ineligible aliens and questionable citizenship.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 New Jersey Register 28(a), 36 New Jersey Register 2425(a).

Amended N.J.A.C. reference.

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§ 10:87-3.11 Awaiting verifications

(a)If verification of eligible alien status or citizenship as required by N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(c) is not provided on a timely basis, the eligibility of the remaining household members shall be determined. The income and resources of the alien(s) whose status is unverified or individual whose citizenship is questionable shall be treated in the same manner as an excluded member as specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.7(c) and considered available in determining the eligibility of the remaining household members.

(b)If verification of eligible alien status or citizenship is subsequently received, the CWA shall act on the information as a reported change in household membership in accordance with timeliness standards at N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(b).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1983 d.223, effective May 31, 1983.

See: 15 New Jersey Register 629(a), 15 New Jersey Register 1033(a).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.116, eff. March 31, 1983, operative April 1, 1983. The amendment is pursuant to the Food Stamp Act amendments of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-35).

References added to citizenship and treatment of income and resources of individuals with questionable citizenship status.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

Changed 1. to (b).

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 New Jersey Register 139(a), 22 New Jersey Register 1599(a).

Revised N.J.A.C. 10:87 reference to 2.20(c).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 New Jersey Register 28(a), 36 New Jersey Register 2425(a).

In (b), deleted "Subsequent verification:"; amended N.J.A.C. references throughout.

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§ 10:87-3.12 Eligibility to use benefits for prepared meals

(a)The following individuals, if members of an eligible household, may use NJ SNAP benefits to purchase prepared meals from any communal dining facility, meal delivery service, substance abuse treatment center, group living arrangement, shelter for battered women and children or homeless meal provider which is currently authorized by FNS to accept NJ SNAP benefits.

1. Any member of an eligible household who is 60 years of age or older or members who receive SSI may use all or any part of his or her NJ SNAP benefits to purchase meals prepared at a communal dining facility authorized by FNS for that purpose. In addition, if such household member lives with his or her spouse, the spouse may also use benefits to purchase meals from a communal dining facility.
2. Any member of an eligible household who is 60 years of age or older, or members who are housebound, feeble, physically handicapped or otherwise disabled to the extent that they are unable to adequately prepare all their meals, may use all or any part of their benefits to purchase meals from a nonprofit meal delivery service. The spouse of such an individual may also use NJ SNAP benefits to purchase meals from a meal delivery service, regardless of age or disability.
3. Members of eligible households who are substance abusers and who regularly participate in a substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation program may use their benefits to purchase food prepared for them during the course of such program by a private nonprofit organization, institution or a publicly operated community mental health center authorized by FNS.
4. Members of eligible households who are residents of a private or public nonprofit facility, such as a GLA authorized by FNS to use their benefits to purchase food for meals served either communally or individually.
 - i. If the residents apply on their own behalf, the CWA shall certify these residents using the same provisions that apply to all households. If the FNS disqualifies the Group Living Arrangement (GLA) as an authorized retail food store, the CWA shall suspend its authorized representative status for the same time; but residents

applying on their own behalf will still be able to participate in the NJ SNAP program, if otherwise eligible.

5. Residents of shelters for battered women and children may use their benefits to purchase meals prepared especially for them at a shelter which has been authorized by FNS to redeem benefits at wholesalers, or which redeems at retailers as the authorized representative of participating households.

6. Homeless NJ SNAP households who obtain meals prepared for and served by an authorized public or private nonprofit establishment such as a soup kitchen or temporary shelter approved by the DFD or its designee.

i. Homeless NJ SNAP households may use their benefits at restaurants who have entered into a contract with the CWA to provide meals to homeless individuals and who have been approved by FNS to accept NJ SNAP benefits.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1979 d.422, eff. October 18, 1979.

See: 11 N.J.R. 379(a), 11 N.J.R. 559(d).

Amended by R.1982 d.474, eff. January 3, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1081(b), 15 N.J.R. 35(a).

References to group living and shelters for battered women, added.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-3.13 State Income and Eligibility Verification System

(a)DFD shall maintain and use the Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) as specified in this section. By means of IEVS, DFD shall request wage and benefit information from the agencies identified below and use that information in verifying eligibility for, and the amount of, NJ SNAP benefits due to eligible households.

1. Such information shall be requested and used with respect to all household members, including any excluded household members, as specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.7, whenever the SSNs of such included household members are available. (If not otherwise documented, DFD shall obtain written agreements from those information provider agencies that they shall not record any information about individual NJ SNAP households and that staff of those agencies are subject to the disclosure restrictions at N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.14).

2. The wage and benefit information available through IEVS are:

- i. Wage information maintained by the State Wage Information Collection Agency (SWICA);
- ii. Information about net earnings from self-employment, wages, and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) data, retirement payments and unearned income maintained by the SSA and available pursuant to sections 6103(1)(7)(A) and (B) of the IRS Code; Federal retirement, survivors, disability, SSI and related benefit information available from the SSA; and
- iii. Claim information from the agency administering Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) and any information, in addition to information about wages and UIB, which is useful for verifying eligibility and benefits, subject to the provisions and limitations of section 303(d) of the Social Security Act.

(b)DFD shall exchange information with other State agencies administering certain other programs in the IEVS about NJ SNAP households' circumstances which may be of use in establishing or verifying eligibility and/or benefits under the program. CWAs may exchange

information with agencies in other states when they determine that the same objectives are likely to be met.

1.These programs are:

- i.**Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (WFNJ/TANF);
- ii.**Medicaid;
- iii.**Unemployment Compensation (UC);
- iv.**NJ SNAP; and
- v.**Any State program administered under a plan approved under Title I, X, or XIV (the adult categories), or Title XVI of the Social Security Act.

2.DFD shall provide information to people administering the Child Support Program (Title IV-D of the Social Security Act) and Titles II (Federal Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits) and XVI (Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled) of the Social Security Act.

(c)The CWA shall use information obtained from IEVS for the purposes of:

- 1.**Verifying a household's eligibility;
- 2.**Verifying the proper amount of benefits;
- 3.**Investigating to determine whether participating households received benefits to which they were not entitled; and
- 4.**Obtaining information which will be used in conducting criminal or civil prosecutions based on receipt of benefits to which participating households are not entitled.

(d)CWAs shall request through DFD, and use information about members of all applicant households as specified below:

- 1.**Information shall be requested at the next available opportunity after the date of application even if the applicant household has been determined eligible by that time. Information about members of applicant households who cannot provide SSNs at application shall be requested at the next available opportunity after the CWA is notified of the household members' SSNs. Information received within the 30-day application period shall be used to determine household eligibility and benefits if the information is received timely enough. However, CWAs shall make eligibility and benefit determinations without waiting for receipt of IEVS data to conform with the promptness standards at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.26. Information received after an eligibility determination has been made shall be used as specified in (e) and (f) below.
- 2.**Information from the SWICA, SSA, IRS, and claim information from the agency administering UIB shall be requested and used as specified in (d)1 above. Requests to SWICAs shall access the most recent SWICA data available. Requests to SSA and IRS shall be submitted according to procedures specified by those organizations.
- 3.**Any information, other than wage and UIB which UC agencies may have and that DFD determines would be useful in verifying eligibility or benefits of applicant

households, shall be requested by methods and at intervals to which DFD and UC agencies agree, and shall be used as specified in paragraph (d)1 above; and

4.Exchanges of information about applicant households with other programs specified in (b) above shall be made as the DFD and other programs may agree.

(e)Except as provided in (e)7 below, with respect to all members of recipient households, DFD shall:

1.Request information from the SWICA quarterly, such requests shall include all households which participated in any month of the quarter;

2.Request information about household members from SSA data bases no later than the second month of the certification period, when requests at application did not establish automatic reporting to the CWA of changes in SSA data. Requests shall be submitted according to procedures specified by the SSA;

3.Request information from IRS annually for all current recipients. Requests shall be submitted to IRS according to procedures specified by the IRS;

4.Exchange information with other programs specified in paragraph (a) above as the DFD and these other programs may agree;

5.Request information about UIB from the agency administering that program as follows:

i.For all household members about whom requests at application indicate no receipt of UIB, information shall be requested for the three months following the month of application or until the receipt of UIB is reported, whichever is earlier; and

ii.For all household members who report a loss of employment, information shall be requested for the three months following the month the loss is reported or when it is considered verified upon receipt of UIB, SDX, Social Security, and so forth, whichever is earlier; and

6.Request from UC agencies any information other than UIB information which DFD determines would be useful in verifying eligibility or benefits of recipient households. Requests shall be made by methods and at intervals to which the DFD and the UC agencies agree.

7.Under certain conditions DFD may exclude from the requests for information specified in this subsection those members of recipient households who are participating in one of the other programs listed in (b) above. The conditions for such exclusion are that:

i.The agency responsible for administering the other program is requesting and acting on information on NJ SNAP recipients who are participating in that program as required by the pertinent regulations for that program, including any concerning selective criteria for follow-up action;

ii.The other program agency agrees to inform the CWA of the information obtained from its follow-up action when that information shows discrepancies between

actual circumstances of NJ SNAP recipients and circumstances known by the other program agency;

iii.The other program agency agrees to make available, at the request of the CWA, information about NJ SNAP recipients that it did not follow up on; and

iv.The follow-up action taken by the other program agency is at least as beneficial as similar action would be if taken by the CWA.

(f)With respect to information received as a result of requests made according to (e) above, CWAs shall initiate and pursue actions according to the specific attachment to the State Plan of Operation.

1.CWA action on information items about recipient households shall include:

i.Reviewing the information and comparing it to case record information;

ii.For all new or previously unverified information received, contacting the households to resolve discrepancies as specified in (d) and (e) above.

iii.If discrepancies warrant reducing benefits or terminating eligibility, sending out notices of adverse action.

2.CWAs shall initiate and pursue the actions specified above so that they are completed within 45 days of receipt of the information. Actions may be completed later than 45 days from the receipt of information on no more than 20 percent of the information if:

i.The only reason that the actions cannot be completed is the nonreceipt of verification requested from collateral contacts; and

ii.The actions are completed, as specified in N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5, when verification from a collateral contact is received or, in conjunction with the next case action, when such verification is not received, whichever is earlier.

3.When the actions specified in (f)1 above substantiate an overissuance, CWAs shall take action on claims as specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20.

4.State agencies shall use appropriate procedures to monitor the timeliness requirements in (f)2 above.

5.Except for the claims actions specified in (f)3 above, under the conditions of (e)7 above, CWAs may exclude from the actions required in (f) above, information items pertaining to household members who are participating in one of the other programs listed in (b) above.

(g)IEVS information and quality control responsibilities are:

1.In compliance with Federal regulations, the DFD uses an administrative system (IEVS) to measure the extent and number of, and occasion and basis for, errors of benefit issuance and/or eligibility in the program.

2.The CWA shall be responsible for investigating and then initiating and implementing actions designed to bring the incidence of errors, as established by DFD's Bureau of Quality Control, within certain pre-set tolerance limits.

History

HISTORY:

New rule, R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (b)1i, substituted a reference to WFNJ/TANF for a reference to AFDC.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (d), amended the N.J.A.C. reference and deleted "paragraphs" preceding "(e) and (f) below" in 1; in (e)5, substituted "when it is considered verified upon receipt of UIB, SDX, Social security, and so forth" for "until the receipt of UIB is reported" in ii and deleted iii; in (f), amended the N.J.A.C. reference in 3.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.14

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§ 10:87-3.14 Procedures for students in an institution of higher education

(a)A student in an institution of higher education defined: Any person who is between the ages of 18 and 50 who is physically and mentally fit and is enrolled at least half time in an institution of higher education. Excluded from this definition are persons who are attending high school, participating in on-the-job training programs and training programs which are not institutions of higher education.

(b)An institution of post secondary education is any public or private educational institution which normally requires a high school diploma or equivalency certificate for enrollment or admits persons who are beyond the legal age of compulsory school attendance, provided that the institution is legally authorized by the State to provide an educational program beyond secondary education or provides a training program to prepare students for gainful employment.

(c)A student shall be considered "enrolled" in an institution of higher education beginning on the first day of the school term. Such enrollment shall be deemed to continue through normal periods of class attendance, vacation and recess unless the student graduates, is suspended or expelled, drops out, or does not intend to register for the next normal school term (excluding summer school).

(d)In order to be eligible to participate in the NJ SNAP program, any student (as defined in (a) above) shall meet at least one of the following criteria:

- 1.** Be employed for a minimum of 20 hours per week and be paid for such employment or, if self-employed, be employed for a minimum of 20 hours per week and receive weekly earnings at least equal to the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours;
- 2.** Participate in a Federally financed work study program (funded in full or in part under Title IV-C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended) during the regular school year, or a state financed work study program. To qualify under this provision, the student must be approved for work study at the time of application for NJ SNAP benefits, the work study must be approved for the school term, and the student must anticipate actually working during that time. Student eligibility based on work study participation begins either with the month in which the school term begins or the

month that participation in work study is approved, whichever occurs last. Once eligible, the student's eligibility shall continue until either the end of the month in which the school term ends, or it becomes known that the student has refused to participate in the work study program. Student eligibility based on work study participation shall not continue between terms where there is a break of a full month or longer, unless the student is participating in work study during the break;

3. Be responsible for the care of a dependent household member under the age of six;

4. Be responsible for the care of a dependent household member between the ages of six and 12 for whom adequate child care is not available to enable the student to either attend class and satisfy the 20 hour work requirement at (d)1 above, or to participate in a state or Federally-financed work study program during the regular school year;

i. The availability and adequacy of child care shall be determined by the CWA on a case by case basis;

ii. Only one person per dependent may qualify under this provision;

5. Be receiving benefits from the Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (WFNJ/TANF) program;

6. Participate in the JOBS program under Title IV of the Social Security Act;

7. Be assigned to or placed in an institution of higher education through or in compliance with the requirements of one of the programs identified at (d)7i through iv below. Self-initiated placements during the period of time the person is enrolled in one of these employment and training programs shall be considered to be in compliance with the requirements of the employment and training program in which the person is enrolled, provided that the program has a component for enrollment in an institution of higher education, and that the program accepts the placement. Persons who voluntarily participate in one of these employment and training activities, and are placed in an institution of higher education through or in compliance with the requirements of the activity, shall also qualify for the exemption. The programs are:

i. A program under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) (P.L. 105-220); or

ii. An NJ SNAP Employment and Training Program (NJ SNAP ETP) activity under N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.4, unless the individual meets the exemption criteria at N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.2(b)3; or

iii. A program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-618); or

iv. An employment and training program for low-income households that is operated by the State of New Jersey, or its local governments, where one or more of that program's requirements is at least equivalent to an acceptable NJ SNAP ETP component as specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.14; or

8. Be a single parent enrolled in an institution of higher education on a full-time basis (as defined by the institution), and be responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of 12. This provision is to be applied in those situations where only one natural, adoptive, or step-parent (regardless of marital status) is in the same NJ SNAP

household as the child. (For example, if one natural parent and a step-parent are living with the child, neither the natural parent nor the step-parent shall qualify as an eligible student under this provision.) If no natural, adoptive, or step-parent is in the same NJ SNAP household as the child, another full-time student in the same NJ SNAP household as the child may qualify for eligible student status under this provision if he or she has parental control over the child, and is not living with his or her spouse.

(e)The income and resources of an ineligible student living with a household shall not be considered in determining eligibility or level of benefits of the household (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)12).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1981 d.97, effective April 9, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 96(c), 13 N.J.R. 228(a).

Old section concerning "eligibility of taxpayer's household" deleted and new section concerning procedures for students in an institution of higher education substituted therefor.

Amended by R.1983 d.121, effective April 4, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 247(a), 15 N.J.R. 625(b).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.38, effective January 31, 1983. The Amendment was pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Amendments of 1981 (P.L. 97-98, Title 13).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1993 d.62, effective February 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3207(b), 25 N.J.R. 584(a).

In (a), reduced maximum age criteria from 60 to 50. In (d)2, added a state financial work study program and defined participation in such programs. In (d)4 and 7 through 11, defined care of a dependent and student eligibility for food stamps.

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

Rewrote (d).

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (d)5, substituted a reference to WFNJ/TANF for a reference to AFDC.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (d), substituted "shall" for "must" in the introductory paragraph, substituted "Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) (P.L. 105-202)" for "Job Training Partnership Act of 1974 (JTPA), 18 U.S.C. § 665" in 7i, and amended the N.J.A.C. reference in 7iv; deleted introductory phrases throughout.

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

In (d)7ii, inserted ", unless the individual meets the exemption criteria at N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.2(b)3".

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.15

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§ 10:87-3.15 Social Security numbers

Providing the Social Security Number for each household member is voluntary; however, failure to provide a SSN will result in denial of NJ SNAP benefits to each individual failing to provide a SSN. Once a SSN is verified, the CWA may share it with other State and Federal agencies. Any SSNs provided of non-applicant members shall be used and disclosed in the same manner as SSNs of eligible household members. If individuals have more than one number, all numbers shall be required. The CWA shall explain to applicants and participants that refusal or inability to provide a SSN will result in disqualification of the individual for whom the number has not been provided.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1983 d.121, effective April 4, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 247(a), 15 N.J.R. 625(b).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.38, effective January 31, 1983. The Amendment was pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Amendments of 1981 (P.L. 97-98, Title 13).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Deleted (a)1 through (a)4; recodified from 3.24.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-3.16 Work registration

(a)Each household member who is not exempt shall be registered for employment by the CWA at time of application, and at least once every 12 months as a condition of eligibility for participation in the NJ SNAP program.

(b)The CWA shall provide work registration forms to the applicant or the household's authorized representative for each household member required to register for employment and permit the applicant or authorized representative to complete the form or, if available, to electronically register.

(c)See N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1 et seq. for details concerning work registration, and employment and training requirements.

History

HISTORY:

New Rule, R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (b), inserted "or, if available, to electronically register" at the end.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.17

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§ 10:87-3.17 Felons and parole violators

Individuals are ineligible for the NJ SNAP program benefits while they are fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or confinement for a felony or attempted felony, or for violating a condition of probation or parole. If the CWA determines that an individual has a warrant out for his or her arrest, the agency shall also verify that the individual has knowledge of the warrant. Once an individual has knowledge of the warrant, either by having received the warrant personally, or by being advised of its existence by the agency, he or she is technically at that time "fleeing" and ineligible for NJ SNAP benefits. Where the agency learns that an individual has a warrant out for his or her arrest during the application processing period, the worker is required to verify with the applicant whether he or she has knowledge of the warrant. Furthermore, the individual shall be given the opportunity to submit documentation that a warrant has been satisfied, if that is what he or she states.

History

HISTORY:

New Rule, R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.18

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§ 10:87-3.18 Disqualification due to duplicate participation

Individuals found in a court or administrative hearing to have made a fraudulent statement regarding their identity or residence in order to concurrently receive NJ SNAP benefits in more than one state or county shall be disqualified from the Program for 10 years.

History

HISTORY:

The following annotations apply to N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.18 prior to its repeal by R.2012 d.031:

New Rule, R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (a), inserted "unless enrolled in, actively participating in or has completed a licensed residential substance abuse treatment program (LRDTP)" at the end of the introductory paragraph; rewrote (b); in (d), substituted "If the test indicates positive for any controlled substance, benefits" for "Benefits" and substituted "substance abuse" for "drug".

The following annotations apply to N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.18 subsequent to its recodification from N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.19 by R.2012 d.031:

New Rule, R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.19 and amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

Substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp". Former N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.18, Individuals convicted of use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances, was repealed.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.19

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§ 10:87-3.19 (Reserved)

History

HISTORY:

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.18 by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

Section was "Disqualification due to duplicate participation".

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.1

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§ 10:87-4.1 Resource applicability

(a)The resource criteria and eligibility standards of this subchapter apply to the following households:

1. Households that contain a member who is subject to an Intentional Program Violation (IPV). The remaining members of the household are NJ SNAP program eligible during the whole disqualification period, if otherwise eligible;
2. Elderly and/or disabled households with income that exceeds 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and who meet the net income standard for the NJ SNAP program eligibility; and
3. Households that contain a member who has failed to comply with a work requirement. The remaining members of the household are NJ SNAP program eligible during the whole disqualification period, if otherwise eligible. There is a work requirement exemption for one parent or other household member who has responsibility for the care of a dependent child under six years of age or who cares for an incapacitated person;

(b)The resource criteria and eligibility standards in this subchapter do not apply to the following households:

1. Expanded categorical households;
2. Expanded categorical alien households' sponsors and sponsors' spouses;
3. Elderly and/or disabled households who meet the gross income of 185 percent of the FPL;
4. Households who have removed the ineligible alien (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3(c)3); and
5. Households who have removed an ineligible student (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3(c)3).

(c)Categorical eligibility applies to WFNJ/TANF, GA, NJ SNAP and SSI households and is defined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.32. These households are resource eligible for the NJ SNAP program.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.2

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§ 10:87-4.2 Determining resources and applicant responsibility

(a) Available resources at the time the household is interviewed shall be used to determine the household's eligibility.

(b) At the time of the certification or recertification interview, the applicant shall report all resources currently held by any member of the household.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.3

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§ 10:87-4.3 Resources defined

(a)The resources of a household shall include the following, which shall be recorded by the CWA in sufficient detail to permit verification, if necessary (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20, 2.21 and 4.5):

1.Liquid resources, such as cash on hand, money in checking and/or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks and/or bonds and lump-sum payments.

i.Money placed into an account from a reverse mortgage shall be considered a liquid resource;

2.Monies withdrawn from a 401K plan, Keogh and IRAs.

i.The monies withdrawn from a 401K plan, Keogh and IRAs are countable income. If it is a large sum, it should be divided by the number of months in the certification period. If the plan has been withdrawn early, subtract the penalty (if any) assessed for early withdrawal from the total amount of monies received and the remaining amount is the countable income;

3.Nonliquid resources, such as personal property, buildings, land, recreational property and any other property not specifically excluded under N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.8; and

4.Vehicles are excluded as a resource, except for recreational vehicles, such as boats, motor homes and so forth. However, if the boat or motor home is the household's primary residence, then it is subject to the resource exemption. The value of recreational vehicles, registered in the name of an eligible household member, shall be included in the determination of financial eligibility. The fair market value of a recreational vehicle shall be determined by the value of those vehicles as indicated on the National Automobile Dealers Association Internet website, www.nadaguides.com. The CWA shall not increase the basic value of a vehicle by adding the value of low mileage or other factors, such as optional or handicap accessible equipment. If a new vehicle is not listed on the website, the CWA shall contact an appropriate dealership to determine the value of a recreational vehicle.

(b)Deemed resources shall include resources deemed to an alien from his or her sponsor in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.11.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.4

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§ 10:87-4.4 Jointly owned resources

(a)Resources held jointly by separate households shall be considered available in their entirety to each household, unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant household that such resources are inaccessible to that household. If the household can demonstrate that it has access to only a portion of the resources, only the value of that portion shall be counted toward the household's resource level.

(b)The resource shall be considered totally inaccessible to the household if the resource cannot be practically subdivided and the household's access to the value of the resource is dependent on the agreement of a joint owner who refuses to comply. For the purpose of this subsection, excluded household members (as described in N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3(c)) residing with the household shall be considered household members.

(c)Resources of residents of shelters for battered women and children shall be considered inaccessible if:

- 1.The resources are jointly owned by such persons and by a member(s) of their former household; and
- 2.The shelter resident's access to the value of the resources is dependent on the agreement of a joint owner.



N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.5

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§ 10:87-4.5 Verification of resource information

Resource information shall be verified prior to certification only if questionable (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.6

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§ 10:87-4.6 Resources of nonhousehold and excluded household members

(a)The resources of nonhousehold members, as described in N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3(a), shall not be counted as available to the household.

(b)The resources of excluded household members, as described in N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.3(c), shall be counted, if applicable, as available to the remaining household members in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.14(b) and (c).

N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.7

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§ 10:87-4.7 Resource exclusions

In the determination of resource eligibility, any item classified as a resource exclusion shall not be considered in the determination of eligibility for participation in the program. Where an exclusion applies because of use of a resource by or for a household member, the exclusion shall also apply when the resource is being used by or for an excluded household member whose resources are being counted as part of the household's resources.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.8

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§ 10:87-4.8 Identification of resource exclusions

(a) Only the following shall be classified as resource exclusions by the CWA:

- 1.** The home and surrounding property that is not separated from the home by intervening property owned by others.
 - i.** Public rights of way, such as roads that run through the surrounding property and separate it from the home, will not affect the exclusion of the property.
 - ii.** The home and surrounding property shall remain excluded when temporarily unoccupied for reasons of employment, training for future employment, illness or uninhabitability caused by casualty or natural disaster, only if the household intends to return to the home.
 - iii.** Households that currently do not own a home, but own or are purchasing a lot on which they intend to build or are building a permanent home, shall receive an exclusion for the value of the lot and, if it is partially completed, for the home;
- 2.** Household goods, including such items as furniture and appliances;
- 3.** Motor vehicles (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.3(a)4);
- 4.** Personal effects, including such items as clothing or jewelry;
- 5.** One burial plot per household member. In addition, the value of one bona fide funeral agreement per household member is also excluded, provided that the agreement does not exceed \$ 1,500 in equity value. If the agreement exceeds \$ 1,500 in equity value, then any value in excess of \$ 1,500 shall be counted towards the household's resource limit;
- 6.** The cash value of life insurance policies;
- 7.** The cash value of pension plans or funds, only if the funds remain in the pension plans.
 - i.** Keogh plans that involve no contractual relationship with individuals who are not nonhousehold members and IRAs shall not be excluded.

ii.Keogh plans involving a contractual relationship with a nonhousehold member (such as Keogh plans established for the self-employed person(s) and employees) shall be excluded. However, if the Keogh plan is such that individual participants may make withdrawals without affecting the other parties in any way (for example, without any contractual obligation to the other participants), the household member's funds in the Keogh plan will be counted as a resource;

8.Property that annually produces income consistent with its fair market value, even if used only on a seasonal basis. Such property shall include rental and vacation homes;

9.Property, such as farm land, that is essential to the employment or self-employment of a household member. Property essential to the self-employment of a household member engaged in farming shall continue to be excluded for one year from the date the household member terminates his or her self-employment from farming;

10.Work-related equipment, such as the tools of a tradesman or the machinery of a farmer, that is essential to the employment or self-employment of a household member;

11.Installment contracts for the sale of land or buildings if the contract or agreement is producing income consistent with its fair market value. The exclusion shall also apply to the value of any property sold under contract, or held as security in exchange for a purchase price consistent with the fair market value of that property;

12.Any governmental payments that are designated for the restoration of a home damaged in a disaster, if the household is subject to a legal sanction if the funds are not used as intended. For example, payments made by HUD through the individual and family grant program or disaster loans or grants made by the Small Business Administration, shall be excluded;

13.Resources having a cash value that is not accessible to the household, such as, but not limited to, irrevocable trust funds (see (a)14 below for treatment of irrevocable trusts), security deposits on rental property or utilities, property in probate and real property, which the household is making a good faith effort to sell at a reasonable price and which has not been sold.

i.The CWA shall verify that the property is actually for sale and that the household has not declined a reasonable offer. Verification may be obtained through a collateral contact or documentation, such as an advertisement for public sale in a newspaper of general circulation or a listing with a real estate broker.

ii.Non-liquid asset(s) against which a lien has been placed as a result of taking out a business loan and the household is prohibited by the security or lien agreement with the creditor from selling the asset(s), shall be excluded.

iii.If the sale or other disposition of a resource is unlikely to produce any significant amount of funds for the support of the household, the resource shall be considered inaccessible. The CWA is not required to verify that a resource is inaccessible unless the information provided by the household is questionable;

14. Any funds held in a trust or transferred to a trust, and the income produced by that trust, to the extent it is not available to the household, shall be considered inaccessible if all of the following criteria apply:

i. The trustee administering the funds is either:

(1) A court or an institution, corporation or organization, which is not under the direction or ownership of any household member; or

(2) An individual (who may be a household member) appointed by the court who has court-imposed limitations placed on his or her use of the funds that meet the requirements of this paragraph;

ii. The funds held in an irrevocable trust are either:

(1) Established from the household's own funds, if the trustee uses the funds solely to make investments on behalf of the trust or to pay the educational or medical expenses of any person named by the household creating the trust; or

(2) Established from nonhousehold funds by a nonhousehold member;

iii. Trust investments made on behalf of the trust do not directly involve or assist any business or corporation under the control, direction or influence of a household member;

iv. The trust arrangement is not likely to cease during the certification period; and

v. No household member has the power to revoke the trust arrangement or change the name of the beneficiary during the certification period;

15. Resources, such as those of students or self-employed persons, that have been counted as income (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.4(a));

16. Indian lands held jointly with the Tribe, or land that can be sold only with the approval of the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

17. Resources that are excluded for NJ SNAP purposes by express provision of Federal statute. The following is a listing of resources excluded by Federal statute:

i. Benefits received from the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (P.L. 92-433);

ii. Reimbursements from the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policy Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646);

iii. Payments received from the disposition of funds to the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians (P.L. 94-540);

iv. Payments received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Public Law 92-203) or the Sac and Fox Indian Claims Agreement (P.L. 94-189);

v. Payments received by certain Indian tribal members regarding submarginal land held in trust by the United States (P.L. 94-114);

vi. Payments received from the Energy Crisis Assistance and Crisis Intervention Programs administered by the Community Service Administration;

vii. Payments or allowances made under any Federal law for the purpose of energy assistance. In order to qualify for this exclusion, the payments or allowances must be clearly identified as energy assistance by the legislative body authorizing the program or the funds. Home Energy Assistance payments, as well as Federal or State onetime payments for weatherization, or emergency repair or replacement of heating or cooling devices qualify for this exclusion;

viii. Payments received by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Indian Nation and the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation from the Indian Claims Commission (P.L. 95-433);

ix. Payments to the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation or any of their members received pursuant to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-420);

x. Payments for relocation assistance to members of the Hopi and Navajo Tribes. Such payments shall be excluded from both resources and income (P.L. 93-531);

xi. Earned income tax credits received either as a lump sum or as payments under Section 3507 of the Internal Revenue Code. These shall be excluded for 12 months, provided that the household was participating in the NJ SNAP program at the time of receipt of the earned income tax credit, and provided the household participates continuously during that 12-month period. Breaks in participation of one month or less due to administrative reasons, such as delayed certification, shall not be considered as non participation in determining the 12-month period;

xii. Payments received under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-383);

xiii. Resources of a household member receiving WFNJ/TANF and/or SSI benefits;

xiv. Resources of a household member that are placed in a Plan for Achieving Self-Support account;

xv. Payments received under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (P.L. 100-426);

xvi. All payments from the Agent Orange Compensation Exclusion Act (P.L. 101-201), retroactive to January 1, 1989. Payments made from the Agent Orange settlement fund under section 10405 of P.L. 101-239 are also excluded. Veteran's benefits authorized under the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (P.L. 102-4) are not excluded by law;

xvii. Payments made under the Crime Act of 1984 to victims of crime (P.L. 103-322);

xviii. Payments made under Section 421 of P.L. 104-204 for children of Vietnam veterans who are born with spina bifida; and

xix. Payments made under the Nazi Persecution Crimes Act;

18. HUD retroactive tax and utility cost subsidy payments issued pursuant to settlement of *Underwood v. Harris*, No. 76-469 (D.D.C. Apr. 5, 1979) (Order

Approving Stipulation of Settlement) against HUD, for the month in which the payment was received and for the following month;

19.Where an exclusion applies because of use of a resource by or for a household member, the exclusion shall also apply when the resource is being used by or for an ineligible alien or disqualified person whose resources are being counted as part of the household's resources (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.7);

20.Funds held in an Individual Development Account (P.L. 2001, c. 93); and

21.Education Retirement Accounts.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.9

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§ 10:87-4.9 Treatment of excluded funds

(a) Any monies excluded by the provisions of N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.8 shall retain the resource exclusion for an unlimited period of time, so long as such monies are kept in a separate account and not commingled in an account with nonexcluded funds.

(b) The resources of students and self-employed persons that are excluded as provided in N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.8(a)15 and are commingled in an account with nonexcluded funds shall retain their exclusion for the period of time over which they have been prorated as income. All other excluded monies that are commingled in an account with nonexcluded funds shall retain their exclusion for six months from the date they are commingled. After six months from the date of commingling, all funds in the commingled account shall be counted as a resource.

N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.10

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§ 10:87-4.10 Value of resources

The value of a nonexempt resource shall be its equity value. The equity value is the fair market value less encumbrances. When necessary, the value of resources shall be determined by consulting sources knowledgeable as to the value of such resources. The source and result of any such verification shall be documented in the case record.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.11

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§ 10:87-4.11 Maximum allowable resources

(a)The maximum allowable resources, including both liquid and non-liquid assets of all members of the household, shall not exceed \$ 2,000 for the household; except that for households including a member or members aged 60 or over, such resources shall not exceed \$ 3,000.

(b)If the household's non-excludable resources exceed the above amounts at any point in time, the household's participation in the program shall be denied or terminated.

N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.12

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§ 10:87-4.12 Transfer of resources

At the time of application, households shall be asked to provide information regarding any resources that any household member (or excluded household member whose resources are being considered available to the household) has transferred within the three-month period immediately preceding the date of application.

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§ 10:87-4.13 Disqualification

Households that have transferred resources knowingly for the purpose of qualifying or attempting to qualify for NJ SNAP benefits shall be disqualified for up to one year (see schedule at N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.17) from the date of discovery of the transfer. This disqualification period shall be applied if the resources are transferred knowingly in the three-month period prior to application or if they are transferred knowingly after the household is determined eligible for benefits. An example of the latter would be assets that the household acquires after being certified for benefits and that are then transferred to prevent the household from exceeding the maximum resource limit.

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§ 10:87-4.14 Transfers not subject to disqualification

(a)Eligibility for the program will not be affected by the following transfers:

- 1.**Resources that would not otherwise affect eligibility, for example, resources consisting of excluded personal property, such as furniture or money that, when added to other nonexcluded household resources, totaled less than the allowable resource limit at the time of the transfer;
- 2.**Resources that are sold or traded at, or near, fair market value;
- 3.**Resources that are transferred between members of the same household (including excluded household members whose resources are being considered available to the household); or
- 4.**Resources that are transferred for reasons other than qualifying or attempting to qualify for NJ SNAP benefits (for example, a parent placing funds into an educational trust fund, as in N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.8(a)).

N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.15

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§ 10:87-4.15 Notice to applicant household

In the event that the CWA establishes that an applicant household has knowingly transferred resources for the purpose of qualifying or attempting to qualify for NJ SNAP benefits, the household shall be sent a notice of denial explaining the reason for and length of disqualification. The period of disqualification shall begin in the month of application.

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.16

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§ 10:87-4.16 Notice to participating household

If the household is participating at the time of the discovery of the transfer, a notice of adverse action explaining the reason for and length of disqualification shall be sent. The period of disqualification shall be made effective with the first allotment to be issued after the notice of adverse action period has expired, unless the household has requested a fair hearing and continued benefits.

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§ 10:87-4.17 Period of disqualification

The length of the disqualification period shall be based on the amount by which nonexempt transferred resources, when added to other countable resources, exceed the allowable limits.

Disqualification Period Chart

Amount in Excess of the Period of Household

Resource Limit	Disqualification
\$ 0.01 - \$ 249.99	1 month
250 - 999.99	3 months
1,000 - 2,999.99	6 months
3,000 - 4,999.99	9 months
5,000 and over	12 months

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.1

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§ 10:87-5.1 Applicability

(a)All households that do not contain an elderly or disabled member, shall meet both the net and gross income eligibility standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.3 and 12.4, respectively, in order to be eligible for program participation, with the exception of (b) below. Households that contain an elderly or disabled member shall meet the net income eligibility standards in N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.3. Net NJ SNAP income shall be determined in accordance with procedures contained in this subchapter.

(b)Households that are categorically eligible as defined at N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.32 and 2.35 do not have to meet either the gross or net income eligibility standards.

(c)Households that are eligible for expanded categorical eligibility only have to meet the gross income test.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1984 d.17, effective February 6, 1984.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1821(a), 16 N.J.R. 246(a).

Reference to meeting net and gross income eligibility.

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

In (a): deleted language "including those in which all members are recipients of public assistance" describing households.

Added text with reference to exception of subsection (b).

Amended by R.1993 d.62, effective February 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3207(b), 25 N.J.R. 584(a).

In (b), added N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.39.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (b), amended the N.J.A.C. references.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In (a), substituted "that" for "which" twice, and substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp"; and added (c).

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N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.2

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§ 10:87-5.2 Responsibilities regarding the reporting of income

(a)Responsibilities for the reporting of income shall be as follows:

1. At the time of certification or recertification, the applicant shall report all income currently being received by all members of the household and any income changes or additions which the household anticipates during the course of the certification period. The applicant also has the responsibility of reporting changes in circumstances, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5, during the certification period.

2. The CWA shall determine that the total income to the household, as reported by the applicant during the certification or recertification interview, is completely identified on the NJ SNAP application, and in sufficient detail to permit verification (see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(b)).

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

In (a)2: revised reference to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20(b).

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

In (a), rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1529(a).

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§ 10:87-5.3 Income defined

Household income shall be defined as all income from whatever source unless such income is specifically excluded under the provisions of N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 New Jersey Register 2689(a), 21 New Jersey Register 511(b).

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§ 10:87-5.4 Earned income

(a)For the purposes of determining net NJ SNAP income, earned income shall include the following:

1. All wages and salaries received as compensation for services performed as an employee;
2. When the earned income of one or more household members and the earned income of a nonhousehold member are combined into one wage, the income of the household member shall be determined as follows:
 - i. If the household's share can be identified, the CWA shall count that portion as earned income to the household; or
 - ii. If the household's share cannot be identified, the CWA shall prorate the earned income among those persons it was intended to cover and count that prorated share as earned income to the household;
3. The gross income from a self-employment enterprise, including the total gain from the sale of any capital goods or equipment related to the business (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)14).
 - i. Ownership of rental property shall be considered a self-employment enterprise. However, income derived from the rental property shall be considered earned income only if a member of the household is actively engaged in the management of the property for an average of at least 20 hours per week (see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.5(a)3).
 - ii. Payments received from a roomer or boarder shall be considered self-employment income, except income from foster care boarders, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)11ii;
4. Training allowances from vocational and rehabilitative programs recognized by Federal, State, or local governments, to the extent they are not a reimbursement (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)9iii(1));

5. Payments to volunteers under Title I (VISTA, University Year for Action and so forth) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-113) shall be considered earned income and subject to the earned income deduction specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.10(a)2, excluding payments to households as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)16iii;

6. Earnings to individuals who are participating in on-the-job training programs under the Workforce Investment Act per 7 CFR 273.9(b)(1)(v). This provision does not apply to household members under 19 years of age who are under the parental control of another adult member, regardless of school attendance and/or enrollment. For the purpose of this provision, earnings include monies paid under the Workforce Investment Act and monies paid by the employer;

7. Educational assistance that has a work requirement (such as work study, or an assistantship or fellowship with a work requirement), and which is not excluded under N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.11, shall be treated as earned income; and

8. Military personnel income monies that are actually made available to the applicant or participating NJ SNAP household by the absent military family member are counted as income for NJ SNAP program purposes.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1983 d.223, effective May 3, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 629(a), 15 N.J.R. 1033(a).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.116, eff. March 31, 1983, operative April 1, 1983. The amendment is pursuant to the Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-35).

Combined income of household and nonhousehold members explained at (a)2; 2 and 3 renumbered 3 and 4.

Amended by R.1984 d.17, effective February 6, 1984.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1821(a), 16 N.J.R. 246(a).

(a)5; payment to volunteers added.

Correction: Added material missing in (a) and (a)5.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1414(a).

Emergency Amendment and Concurrent Proposal, R.1986 d.297, effective June 30, 1986 (operative July 1, 1986).

See: 18 N.J.R. 1490(a).

(a)1i deleted from section.

Readopted Concurrent Proposal, R.1986 d.395, effective October 6, 1986.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1490(a), 18 N.J.R. 2015(c).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.270, effective May 21, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 139(a), 22 N.J.R. 1599(a).

In (a)6: added text to specify programs administered under JTPA, Section 204(5).

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (a), added 7.

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (a)4, deleted a reference to WIN and REACH.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Deleted the introductory phrases throughout and rewrote (a)6.

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

In the introductory paragraph of (a)3, substitute a period for a semicolon at the end; and in (a)3ii, substituted ", except income from foster care boarders, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)10ii;" for a period at the end.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In the introductory paragraph of (a), substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp"; in (a)5, deleted a comma following "Action", and updated the N.J.A.C. reference at the end; in (a)6, substituted "CFR" for "C.F.R."; in (a)7, substituted "that" for "which" and "; and" for a period at the end; and added (a)8.

Administrative correction.

See: 50 N.J.R. 1814(c).

N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.5

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New Jersey Administrative Code > TITLE 10. HUMAN SERVICES > CHAPTER 87. NEW JERSEY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NJ SNAP) MANUAL > SUBCHAPTER 5. FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY; INCOME

§ 10:87-5.5 Unearned income

(a)For the purposes of determining net NJ SNAP income, unearned income shall include, but not be limited to:

1.Assistance payments from Federal or Federally aided public assistance programs such as SSI or WFNJ/TANF and WFNJ/GA program payments, or other assistance programs based on need. Such assistance is considered to be unearned income even if provided in the form of a vendor payment to a third party on behalf of the household, unless specifically exempt as countable income under the provisions at N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)1 and 2.

i.All assistance payments from programs which require, as a condition of eligibility, the actual performance of work, without compensation other than the assistance payments themselves, shall be considered unearned income;

2.Annuities, pensions, retirement benefits, veteran's benefits, old-age, survivors, or disability benefits, workman's compensation, unemployment compensation, including any amount deducted to repay an IPV violation, Social Security benefits, strike benefits, and foster care payments for children or adults provided that the foster child or adult is included in the household;

3.Gross income (minus the cost of doing business) derived from rental property in which a household member is not actively engaged in management of the property at least 20 hours a week (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.4(a)3i);

4.Scholarships, educational grants, deferred payment loans for education, veteran's educational benefits and the like in excess of amounts excluded at N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9(a)7. Educational assistance with a work requirement is not considered unearned income;

5.Support and alimony payments made directly to the household from nonhousehold members. Non-recurring arrearages on child support and alimony payments made directly to the household are considered lump sum payments. Recurring court-ordered

arrearrages on child support and alimony payments made directly to the household are considered as unearned income;

6. Payments from Federal, State, or local government-sponsored programs which can be construed to be a gain or benefit;

7. Payments in the form of dividends, interest, and royalties;

8. Monies that are withdrawn or dividends that are or could be received by a household from trust funds.

i. Trust withdrawals shall be considered income in the month received unless excluded in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9.

ii. Dividends which the household has the option of either receiving as income or reinvesting in the trust are to be considered income in the month they become available to the household unless excluded in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.9;

9. All other direct money payments from any source which can be construed to be a gain or benefit to the household;

10. Income deemed to an alien age 18 or older from his or her sponsor in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-7.11; and

11. Foster care payment received by the household for a foster care child whom the household has opted to include in the NJ SNAP household.

History

HISTORY:

Amended by R.1983 d.121, effective April 4, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 247(a), 15 N.J.R. 625(b).

Originally adopted as an Emergency Rule, R.1983 d.38, eff. January 31, 1983. The amendment was pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-253) and the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Amendments of 1981 (P.L. 97-98, Title 13).

Amended by R.1983 d.141, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 212(b), 15 N.J.R. 692(b).

Trust withdrawal and dividends added to list of unearned income at (a)8; 8 renumbered 9.

Emergency Amendment and Concurrent Proposal, R.1986 d.297, effective June 30, 1986 (operative July 1, 1986).

See: 18 N.J.R. 1490(a).

(a)1i added.

Readopted Concurrent Proposal, R.1986 d.395, effective October 6, 1986.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1490(a), 18 N.J.R. 2015(c).

Amended by R.1989 d.121, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2689(a), 21 N.J.R. 511(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1991 d.247, effective May 6, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 179(a), 23 N.J.R. 1412(b).

In (a)2: added phrase, ". . . provided that the foster . . . in the household;"

Amended by R.1998 d.498, effective October 5, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1928(a), 30 N.J.R. 3669(b).

In (a)4, deleted a reference to fellowships, and inserted "other than educational assistance with a work requirement" following "the like".

Amended by R.1999 d.6, effective January 4, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3451(a), 31 N.J.R. 69(a).

In (a)1, substituted a reference to WFNJ/TANF and WFNJ/GA for a reference to AFDC and General Assistance in the introductory paragraph, and deleted a reference to GAEP in i.

Amended by R.2004 d.181, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 28(a), 36 N.J.R. 2425(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2009 d.94, effective March 16, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 5932(a), 41 N.J.R. 1245(b).

In the introductory paragraph of (a)1 and of (a)8, and in (a)8i, substituted a period for a semicolon at the end; in (a)1i, substituted a semicolon for a period at the end; in (a)5, substituted a period for a semicolon at the end of the first sentence and inserted the last two sentences; in (a)8, inserted commas following "Monies", "dividends" and "funds", and inserted a closing parenthesis following the N.J.A.C. reference; in (a)10, substituted "; and" for a period at the end; and added (a)11.

Amended by R.2012 d.031, effective February 6, 2012 (operative March 7, 2012).

See: 43 N.J.R. 2114(a), 44 N.J.R. 241(a).

In the introductory paragraph of (a) and in (a)11, substituted "NJ SNAP" for "food stamp"; rewrote (a)4; in (a)5, deleted "in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.9(d)2" at the end of the second sentence; in (a)8, substituted "that" for ", which" twice, and deleted ", which are considered to be excludable resources (see N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.8(a)14)" following "funds"; and in (a)11, deleted "for" following "child" and substituted "include" for "be included".