

Practice Alert



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Issued by: Crystal Wenger – PDS - AC

SNAP Benefits for Homeless Individuals – New Exceptions

PURPOSE:

On June 3, 2023, the President signed into law the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA). In part, the FRA adds a new exception to the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time-limit for SNAP benefits for: (1) individuals experiencing homelessness, regardless of age; and (2) young adults transitioning out of foster care/foster youth who are in foster care on their 18th birthday (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(3)). Typically, adults between the ages of 18-49 who do not have dependents cannot receive SNAP benefits for more than 3 months within a 3 year period unless they meet an exception or are exempt. This new exception exempts these two populations from the three-month ABAWD time limit and requirement. The exception is effective for all eligible SNAP applications received on or after September 1, 2023.

OVERVIEW:

Individuals no longer need to be experiencing chronic homelessness in order to meet an exception from the ABAWD time-limit. The homeless exception now applies to individuals who meet a broader definition of homeless, as defined in Section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 at 7 CFR 271.2:

- A “**homeless individual**” means an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence or an individual 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 for not more than 90 days in the residence of another individual; or
 - (4) A place not designed for, or ordinarily used, as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (such as a hallway, a bus stop, a lobby, or similar places).
- **This exception applies to ALL individuals, regardless of age.**

PROCESS:

- To apply for SNAP benefits, apply online at mydss.mo.gov/apply by clicking “apply” under SNAP. The application can be filled out and submitted entirely online or can be downloaded and printed for submission. Potential applicants may also go to their local FSD office to apply in person.
- Verification:
 - For homeless individuals verification may be obtained through a collateral contact with a homeless shelter or Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program, through a person the individual is staying with, or any other individual aware of the individual’s circumstances.
 - Homeless individuals are specifically exempted from the requirement to verify residency
- Important information for case managers:

- An interview will be conducted by FSD with applicants for SNAP benefits. In the event that an interview call is missed, the phone number to complete the interview for SNAP is 855-823-4908.
- For additional information:
 - Web: <https://mydssupload.mo.gov/UploadPortal>
 - Mailing Address: Family Support Division, P.O. Box 2700, Jefferson City, MO 65102
 - In person: To locate your closest resource center go to https://dss.mo.gov/dss_map/#office (please always note the times of availability).
 - Fax: (573) 526-9400