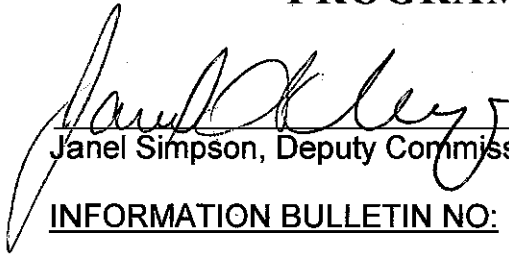


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN


 Janel Simpson, Deputy Commissioner

With ImpaCT Implementation
 Effective Date

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO: 16-04

PROGRAM (S): SNAP


Subject: SNAP -- Transitional Benefits Alternative (TBA)

Introduction: SNAP TBA is an option available to states to help support families as they transition off Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) benefits due to earnings. SNAP TBA can be continued for up to five months at a level equal to the SNAP benefit amount the household received prior to TFA termination with adjustments for the loss of TFA income. SNAP certification periods may be extended so that families receive the full 5 months of benefits. When TFA closes due to new or increased earnings ImpaCT will automatically explore TBA for SNAP. If the household is eligible the Notice of Action will include a notice fragment about the benefit amount, certification period, and other options available to the household.

This PIB discusses the rules that determine who is eligible for TBA, how to calculate the TBA, reported changes, the eligibility period for TBA, and certain notice requirements.

<p>General principles</p> <p>CFR 273.26 Subpart H The Transitional Benefit Alternative</p>	<p>The state agency has an option to provide households transitioning off Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TFA) with transitional SNAP benefits. These transitional benefits can be continued for up to 5 months.</p>
<p>Who is eligible for TBA?</p>	<p>If the SNAP household included at least one recipient on TFA and the TFA benefits were terminated due to <i>new</i> or <i>increased</i> earned income, the household may qualify for TBA.</p>

<p>Who is not eligible for TBA?</p>	<p>DSS may not provide transitional benefits <u>to a household</u> who is no longer eligible for TFA when:</p> <p>(A) The household is leaving TFA due to a TFA sanction;</p> <p>(B) All household members are ineligible to receive SNAP because they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Disqualified for intentional program violation; (2) Ineligible for failure to comply with a work requirement; (3) Ineligible students; (4) Ineligible non-citizen; (5) Disqualified for failing to provide information necessary for making a determination of eligibility; (6) Disqualified for knowingly transferring resources for the purpose of qualifying or attempting to qualify for SNAP; (7) Disqualified for receipt of SNAP in multiple households (8) Disqualified for being a fleeing felon; or (9) Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) who fail to comply with the requirements.
<p>How to calculate the TBA benefit</p>	<p>Use the SNAP benefit amount the household was receiving when the TFA was active and remove TFA income.</p> <p>This amount will be “frozen” for 5 months, unless client recertifies at a higher benefit level or a member of the TBA household applies for or begins receiving SNAP as part of a different household.</p> <p>The frozen benefit is equal to the higher of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SNAP benefit received prior to TFA closure <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Newly calculated SNAP benefit without the TFA and including all other changes.

<p>Acting on changes reported during TBA months</p>	<p><i>Households are not required to report changes until the end of the transitional benefit period.</i></p> <p>If changes are reported during TBA period and they will <i>decrease</i> benefit, DSS will make the change effective the recertification month.</p> <p>If changes are reported during TBA period and they will <i>increase</i> benefit, DSS will provide the option to the household to complete a renewal for regular SNAP.</p> <p>However, workers <i>must</i> act to change the benefit when a household member leaves the household and either applies for SNAP in another state or begins receiving SNAP as a member of another SNAP household in ImpaCT. This member's income/resources/deductions should be removed from TBA benefit calculation. This is done to prevent duplicate participation.</p>
<p>Notice Requirements for TBA</p> <p></p> <p>TBA Notice of Action Text.docx</p> <p>ELIG-SNAP-24: TBA SNAP Fragment</p>	<p>The state agency is required to issue a notice of action which informs the household of its eligibility for transitional benefits, the length of the transitional period, and the household's right to apply for renewal of regular SNAP at any time during the transitional period.</p> <p>The notice is also required to explain any changes in the household's benefit amount and that the household is not required to report or verify changes in their circumstances until the end of the transitional benefit period or in a recertification interview.</p> <p>If the household decides to apply for recertification, DSS must interview the household and provide a written notice of required verification and allow a minimum of 10 days for the household to comply. The household must be notified of their eligibility or ineligibility within 30 days following the day the application is filed, but no later than 30 days.</p>
<p>Certification Periods</p>	<p>Certification periods for households on TBA are 5 months. At the end of the certification period, they will need to be recertified for regular SNAP.</p>

When does TBA end?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The household chooses to file an application during the TBA benefit period in order to return to regular SNAP; or➤ The household applies for TFA and is approved; or➤ The household requests the TBA benefits be discontinued; or➤ The household reaches the end of the five month TBA period.
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Disposition: Retain for future reference.

Distribution: SNAP Eligibility Staff

Responsible Unit: SNAP unit (860) 424-5030

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