



FAMILY INDEPENDENCE ADMINISTRATION

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POLICY BULLETIN #12-40-ELI (This Policy Bulletin Replaces PD #99-30)

CLARIFICATION ON THE FOOD STAMP DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

Date: May 11, 2012	Subtopic(s): Food Stamps
<p> This procedure can now be accessed on the FIAweb.</p>	<p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to remind staff making Food Stamp (FS) eligibility determinations of the criteria for which an individual may be deemed disabled under the FS program.</p> <p>Any household containing an individual determined to be aged/disabled is entitled to certain easements of FS eligibility requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, the expansion of categorical eligibility for eligible households, the higher resource threshold for non-categorically eligible households, exemption from the maximum shelter cap, and an exemption from the gross and net income tests.</p> <p>To be considered disabled under the Food Stamp Program, an individual must meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits; • receiving Social Security Disability (SSD) payments; • a veteran receiving 100% disabled veteran's benefits – service connected; • a veteran receiving 100% disabled veteran's benefits – non-service connected; • a veteran or surviving spouse of a veteran and considered by the Veteran's Administration (VA) to be permanently homebound or in need of regular aid and attendance; • a surviving child of a veteran and considered to be permanently incapable of self support;

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- a surviving spouse or child of a veteran and entitled to compensation for a service-connected death or pension benefits for a non-service connected death based on a VA determination and has a disability considered permanent under the Social Security Act;
- receiving Federal or State supplemental benefits provided that the eligibility to receive the benefits is based upon disability or blindness;
- receiving Federal or State administered supplemental benefits;
- receiving a Federal, State, or City government disability pension;
- receiving Railroad Retirement disability income;
- receiving Medicaid (MA) based upon certification by MA as disabled, blind or “SSI-related”;
- pending an SSI decision only if one of the following conditions is met:
 - Non-citizens with ES code 43 (SSI pending) may be considered disabled while awaiting or appealing the SSI determination.
 - Cash Assistance received by non-citizens with AIDS or HIV-related illness and who receive an enhanced shelter allowance, or non-citizens who are receiving benefits from the HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA).

Refer to [PB #03-88-ELI](#) for Questions and Answers for the Food Stamp Program Eligibility for Aliens

Note: Qualified aliens who are subject to the five year bar on federal benefits may be eligible for food stamps if they meet one of the above definitions of disability and otherwise qualify for benefits under the Food Stamp program. The exception to this is qualified aliens who are receiving MA based upon certification by MA as “SSI-related” when the sole factor for that certification is the individual being aged.

Effective Immediately

References:

P.L. 93-66
 P.L. 107-171
 02 ADM-7
 03 INF 14
 FSSB Section 5

Related Item:

[PB #03-88-ELI](#)