



# OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

## POLICY BULLETIN #22-56-ELI

### TREATMENT OF MEAL PLANS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

| <b>Date:</b><br>August 3, 2022                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Subtopic(s):</b><br>SNAP Eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <p>See the SNAP Source Book, Section 5, page 53 for the complete list of exceptions.</p> <p>11 or more meals per week – not eligible</p> <p>10 or less meals per week - eligible</p> | <p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform all Benefit Access Center (BAC), Non-Cash Assistance (NCA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center and HIV/AIDS Administration Services (HASA) staff of the SNAP eligibility for residents of institutions of higher education who have meal plans. This policy bulletin also serves as a reminder on SNAP student eligibility.</p> <p>Except for certain exceptions (e.g., homeless individuals or families residing in temporary public or private non-profit shelters), residents of institutions are ineligible to receive SNAP benefits. Individuals are considered residents of institutions if they receive a majority of their meals (more than 50 percent of three meals per day) as part of the institution’s normal services.</p> <p>Therefore, students residing in campus housing who participate in a school meal plan that provides 11 or more meals per week (more than half of 21 meals per week) are considered as residents of an institution and are not eligible to receive SNAP benefits.</p> <p>Students residing in campus housing who participate in a school meal plan that provides 10 or less meals per week (less than half of 21 meals per week) are not considered residents of an institution and may be eligible to receive SNAP benefits if they meet other eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Workers must ascertain the number of weekly meals that are part of the student’s meal plan in order to determine if they are considered to be living in an institution. If the number of meals included in their plan is unclear, ask the student to provide clarification of what the plan includes.</p> |

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE?  
 Call 718-557-1313 then press 3 at the prompt followed by 1 or  
 send an e-mail to *FIA Call Center Fax* or fax to: (917) 639-0298

For example, Kendra receives breakfast and lunch every weekday through her college meal plan, which is equivalent to 10 meals per week. Even though she will receive two of three daily meals through the meal plan on weekdays, she would not be considered a resident of an institution because 10 meals per week is less than the majority of 21 total weekly meals (3 meals daily for 7 days).

### **Student eligibility**

See PB #20-70-ELI for the complete list of SNAP student exemptions.

Individuals between the age of 18 and 49 who are enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education are eligible to receive SNAP benefits if they meet at least one of the various SNAP student exemptions identified in PB #20-70-ELI.

See PB #21-04-ELI for information on the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

In addition to the existing SNAP student exemptions, the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 added the following two temporary exemptions which will remain in effect until 30 days after the COVID-19 federal public health emergency (PHE) is lifted.

- being eligible to participate in state or federally financed work study, without actual participation; and
- having an “expected family contribution (EFC)” of \$0 in the current academic school year.

*Effective Immediately*

### **References:**

GIS 22 TA/DC073

GIS 21 TA/DC004

7 CFR 273.1(b)(7)(vi)

7 CFR 273.5

95 INF-22

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Source Book, Section 5

### **Related Items:**

PB #20-70-ELI Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Student Eligibility

PB #21-04-ELI Impacts of the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021