| LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH | | |
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| | **Division/Section** | Family Support |
| | **Chapter No./Name** | 4 – Economic Independence (EI) |
| | **Part No./Name** | E – Special Households |
| | **Section No./Name** | E-200-FITAP-SNAP Special Households |
| | **Document No./Name** | E-280-SNAP Categorically Eligible Households |
| | **Effective Date** | November 15, 2026 |

# I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

## E-281-SNAP - PO HOUSEHOLDS CONSIDERED TRADITIONAL CATEGORICALLY ELIGIBLE

Households are considered traditional categorically eligible for SNAP benefits when all members receive or are authorized to receive benefits from:

- FITAP,
- STEP,
- KCSP, or
- SSI

A recipient of benefits includes:

- an individual receiving benefits through the FITAP, STEP, KCSP, or SSI programs, or
- an individual authorized to receive FITAP, STEP, KCSP, or SSI but the benefits have not yet been paid, or
- an individual determined eligible to receive zero benefits, i.e., a person whose benefits are being recouped, or
- a FITAP recipient whose benefits are less than $10 and therefore does not receive any cash benefits, or
- A payee for KCSP is considered a recipient of KCSP. Do not consider households containing persons entitled only to Medicaid as categorically eligible.

## E-281-1-SNAP - PO BROAD-BASED CATEGORICALLY ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

Broad-Based Categorically Eligible (BBCE) households are eligible for SNAP benefits when the household receives a non-cash TANF/MOE funded benefit or service. Upon certification of a BBCE household, the TANF Non-Cash Services Fact Sheet (OFS 4BBCE) is sent to notify the household that they are authorized to receive non-cash TANF/MOU services.

Resources for all members included in the broad-based categorically eligible household are included in eligibility determination. Resource questions need to be cleared when processing applications, Simplified Reports, or redeterminations. Verification of resources for BBCE households need to be requested. Client statement is acceptable verification if the household's cash on hand and liquid resources are $3000 or less.

If the household is determined to be BBCE, the household is subject to the gross income test of 200% of the federal poverty limit instead of 130% of the federal poverty limit. Households that are exempt from the gross income limit must still meet the gross income test of 200% of the federal poverty limit to be considered BBCE.

Upon authorization of a case, LITE will determine if the household is BBCE based on the criteria in E-282-PO. LITE will automatically:

- Compare the household's verified countable resources to the applicable resource limit.
- Determine eligibility based on the gross income test of 200% of the FPL instead of 130%.
- Select 'Yes' to the question, "Is this household broad-based categorically eligible?"
- Send the TANF Non-Cash Services Fact Sheet (OFS 4BBCE) automatically to notify the household that they have been authorized to receive non-cash TANF/MOU funded services.
- Create a case note indicating that BBCE has been conferred to the household. The case note will read: "Household has been determined Board-Based Categorically Eligible."

**E-282-SNAP - PO DETERMINING TRADITIONAL CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY AND BROAD-BASED CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY (BBCE)**

Do not consider a household traditional categorically eligible or BBCE if:

- any member of that household is disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation.
- the head of household is disqualified for failure to comply with work registration requirement.
- any member of that household is disqualified for fleeing felon restrictions or probation/parole violation,
- any member of that household is disqualified for being convicted of a crime cited in E-221-1-SNAP – PO and not in compliance with the terms of their sentence,
- the household was disqualified due to receipt of substantial lottery or gambling winnings. If the household reapplies after losing eligibility due to these winnings, the household would not be considered categorically eligible and must meet the income and resource limit. The case would be processed under regular SNAP rules. This requirement only applies to the first time a household is certified following the loss of eligibility due to substantial lottery or gambling winnings.

Do not consider the following individuals a member of the household when determining traditional categorical eligibility or BBCE:

- an ineligible alien,
- an ineligible student,

- an institutionalized person,
- an individual who is disqualified for failure to comply with the work registration requirements,
- an individual who is disqualified for failure to provide or apply for a Social Security Number, or
- an individual who is on strike.

**E-283-SNAP - PO TRADITIONAL CATEGORICALLY ELIGIBILITY FACTORS**

Households which are traditional categorically eligible are considered to have met the following SNAP eligibility factors without additional verification:

- Resources,
- Social Security Numbers,
- Sponsored Alien Information, and
- Residency.

These households also do not have to meet the gross and net income limits. Verify income not counted for FITAP, KCSP, or SSI.

Verify factors (authorization to receive FITAP, KCSP, STEP, and/or SSI) used to determine categorical eligibility, if questionable. See E-281-SNAP – PO.

These households must meet all other eligibility factors.

**E-284-SNAP - PO CHANGES**

Process changes as outlined in C-800-SNAP except for changes in the eligibility factors listed in E-283-SNAP – PO.

**E-285-SNAP - PO BENEFITS**

Benefits for traditional categorically eligible and BBCE households shall be based on net income as for any other household. One and two person households will receive a minimum benefit as defined in C-920-SNAP.

Traditional categorically eligible and BBCE households of 3 or more persons for which income exceeds the level at which benefits are paid shall be denied.

**E-286-SNAP - PO RESERVED**

**E-287-SNAP - PO CERTIFIED HOUSEHOLDS**

Certified households which become traditional categorically eligible because of receipt of SSI benefits shall be eligible for the medical and uncapped shelter deductions from:

- the beginning of the period for which the SSI benefits are authorized, or
- the date of the SNAP application, whichever is later.

## II. PROCEDURES

**E-281-SNAP - PR HOUSEHOLDS CONSIDERED TRADITIONAL CATAGORICALLY ELIGIBLE AND BBCE HOUSEHOLDS**

When a BBCE household reports or the agency learns that their gross monthly income exceeds 130% of the FPL for their household size, verification of the household's income must be requested and once received determine if the change in income affects eligibility. If the household fails to provide the verification, the case must be closed for failure to provide verification.

If a BBCE household's gross monthly income exceeds 200% of the FPL, the household is no longer eligible for BBCE and also no longer eligible for SNAP. Anytime it is determined that a BBCE household is no longer eligible to be BBCE, the household must be notified in writing that they are no longer eligible for BBCE non-cash TANF funded services. LITE will automatically create a case note and send the Notice of Decision informing the household that the household is no longer BBCE.

- If a BBCE household's gross monthly income exceeds 130% of the FPL but is below 200% of the FPL, staff must determine if the household's gross monthly income exceeds the net income limit.
    - If the income does not exceed the net income limit, the income must be budgeted, EDBC run, and the case must be authorized.
    - If the income exceeds the net income limit and it is a one or two-person household, the income must be budgeted and the household will be eligible for the $24 minimum allotment.
    - If the income exceeds the net income limit and it is a three or more-person household, the income must be budgeted and the household is no longer eligible for SNAP.

If the household was determined to be BBCE in error and the household was notified that they are BBCE, then the household is considered to be BBCE. The household must be notified that they are not BBCE. If benefits were issued in error due to the BBCE determination, all ineligible benefits must be recovered.

## E-282-SNAP - PR DETERMINING TRADITIONAL CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY

There are no procedures associated with this policy.

## E-283-SNAP - PR TRADITIONAL ELIGIBILITY FACTORS

Do not request verification of resources, Social Security Numbers, alien information or residency for a categorically eligible household.

## E-284-SNAP - PR CHANGES

Process changes as outlined in C-800-SNAP except for changes in the eligibility factors listed in E-283-SNAP.

Process households in which all members are applying for FITAP, KCSP, or SSI, in accordance with joint processing procedures.

Until a determination is made on the FITAP, KCSP, or SSI application, base the household's eligibility and benefit level on SNAP eligibility criteria. Postpone denying a potentially categorically eligible household until the 30th day in case the household is determined eligible to receive FITAP, KCSP, or SSI benefits.

Advise the household on its notice of denial that it would be to their advantage to notify the local office when SSI benefits are approved.

If the household is later determined eligible to receive FITAP, KCSP, or SSI benefits after the 30th day and is otherwise categorically eligible, provide benefits using the original application along with other pertinent information occurring subsequent to that application.

Do not re-interview the household.

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. If eligibility for FITAP, KCSP, or SSI is determined within the 30-day SNAP processing time, provide benefits back to the date of application. If eligibility for FITAP, KCSP, or SSI is determined after the SNAP application is denied, prorate benefits for the initial month from the effective date of that certification or the date of the SNAP application, whichever is later.

## E-287-SNAP - PR CERTIFIED HOUSEHOLDS

Certified households that become traditional categorically eligible because of receipt of SSI benefits shall be eligible for medical and uncapped shelter deductions.

Provide these additional benefits through restoration by using an OFS 35.

## III. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

OFS 4BBCE Form / Instructions TANF Non-Cash Services Fact Sheet
OFS 35 Form / Instructions Request for Special-Manual Cash Assistance – SNAP Benefits

## IV. REFERENCES

7 CFR 273.2 Office Operations and Application Processing
LAC 67:III: Subpart 3, Subchapter J, Section 1987.E
August 13, 2025 USDA – FNS Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) All State Agency Memo – Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA).