

# Categorically Eligible SNAP Recipients

**Policy 24.24**

**Effective: June 15, 2021**

## Introduction

The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) shall review household circumstances to determine qualifications for categorical eligibility based on state and federal guidelines.

## Scope

This policy was developed to outline the requirements for households to be classified as categorically eligible by providing information to determine who meets the categorically eligible criteria for SNAP.

## Policy

### Categorical Eligibility – Who is Eligible?

1. Households that consist entirely of either Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients;
2. Families First recipients;
3. Or, a combination of both, are considered categorically eligible for SNAP.

Individuals are still considered SSI or Families First recipients when they are eligible for Families First or SSI payments but are not receiving the payments due to being recouped, suspended or the FF grant is less than \$10.

### If a Household is Categorically Eligible, What Does This Mean?

Categorically eligible households are exempt from the SNAP resource limit and net and gross income limits. Once a household is determined categorically eligible, it is not necessary to verify the following:

1. Resources
2. Social Security Number
3. Sponsored Alien Information
4. Residency

All other SNAP verification requirements must be met.

### Categorical Eligibility Does Not Apply to the Following Households:

1. where any member has been disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation;
2. who has a member that is receiving SSI benefits for drug addiction or alcoholism, but the SSI payment is suspended for failure to attend scheduled treatments or to make progress;
3. where a household member is disqualified due to voluntary quit/work requirements;
4. any member of the household that is ineligible due to being a fleeing felon, drug-related felony, or for having a conviction of certain crimes and not being in compliance with the sentence;
5. households whose case was closed due to lottery or gambling winnings are required to meet regular SNAP rules for eligibility once they reapply and cannot be considered CE status until approved for one (1) certification period as a regular SNAP household ([24.13 SNAP Lottery or Gambling Winnings](#))

### Exclusions from an Otherwise Categorically Eligible Household

The following individuals cannot be included in an otherwise categorically eligible household:

1. ineligible aliens;
2. ineligible students;
3. institutionalized individuals in a nonexempt facility;
4. disqualified for any reason from receiving SNAP;

Multiple Applications Pending

Households may apply for SNAP and Families First at the same time, or they may have a Families First or SSI application pending when they apply for SNAP.

Households would not be considered categorically eligible until the SSI or Families First application is approved. It is not necessary to wait for the Families First or SSI approvals before certifying the household. If the household is eligible under normal SNAP policy and procedures, they may be certified as a normal SNAP Household according to policy and procedures.

*SNAP Households Not Typically Eligible for Benefits under normal SNAP Policy/Procedures*

When the household is not eligible for benefits under normal SNAP policy or procedures but could be eligible as a categorically eligible household (once the Families First or SSI benefit is approved), the caseworker should:

1. Delay the SNAP determination until the 30th day from the date the SNAP application was filed to allow time for the Families First or SSI applications to be approved. At the point the household becomes categorically eligible, certify it according to the policy and procedure for categorically eligible households. Prorate benefits as applicable.
2. If the household is not categorically eligible on the 30th day after the SNAP application was filed, the application should be denied and the household should be notified to report when the SSI is

approved (we will know when the Families First is approved).

3. When the pending Families First or SSI applications are approved after the SNAP application has been denied but is still within 60 days, the caseworker should update the SNAP application with any changes that have occurred since the last interview. A new interview is not required. The household's benefits should then be pro-rated from the first day the Families First or SSI benefits are payable (usually the date of the FF or SSI application), or the date of the original SNAP application, whichever is later.

When a Categorically Eligible Household's FF or SSI benefits are Terminated

If a categorically eligible household's Families First or SSI benefits are terminated, the household's continuing eligibility should be determined based on normal SNAP policy and procedures for non-categorically eligible households.

**Supporting Documents**

[Procedures for Categorically Eligible Households](#)  
[24.13 SNAP Lottery or Gambling Winnings](#)

**Retention of Records**

*Pending*

**Definitions/Acronyms**

Term	Definition
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
TDHS	The Tennessee Department of Human Services
SSI	Supplemental Security Income

**Supersedes**

SNAP Policy Manual July 2017 Chapter 3

**Approval History**

Approved By	Approver Title	Approved Date	Effective Date
Clarence H. Carter	Commissioner	06/01/2021	06/15/2021

**Revision History**

Date	Version	Location of Change	Description/Reason for Change
06/01/2021	6/15/2021	New Policy	New Policy

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<b>Application</b>	All TDHS Employees and Contractors		