

Eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

General eligibility requirement common to all programs:

- Eligibility for assistance is limited to those individuals who are citizens or who meet qualified non-citizen status (exceptions for SOBRA and victims of human trafficking)

Food Assistance (SNAP):

- The amount of assistance eligible persons receive is based on household size and amount of income after allowable deductions
 - Maximum monthly gross income may not exceed 130% of the FPL
 - Maximum monthly net income after allowable deductions may not exceed 100% of the FPL
 - Households have a limit of \$2,000 in resources; households with at least one member age 60 or older, or an individual with a disability, have a limit of \$3,000 in resources unless the household is categorically eligible in which case there is no resource limit.
 - A household is considered categorically eligible (no resource limit and other factors are deemed for eligibility) for SNAP when all household members receive or are authorized to receive TAF, GA or SSI.
- SNAP is a direct payment of benefits program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- 141,026 Kansas households receive SNAP benefits.

SNAP Policy Change

In October of 2011, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services revised the policy regarding income calculation for the federal food stamp program. This revision was made in accordance of U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations 7 CFR 273.4 and 273.11(c)(3).

Previous Policy:

- Under the previous policy, which was put in place in 2001, SRS counted only a portion or a pro-rata share of the reported income of households in which one or more members were unwilling or unable to provide documentation of their immigration status. Persons in the U.S. unlawfully would be unable to provide documentation of their immigration status.
- Citizen households would have 100 percent of their income counted.
- This policy set a higher threshold for citizen households to qualify for food stamps than it did for households with members who are not in our country legally.
- An ineligible non-citizen household of four, on average, could bring in \$908 more in income, if all incomes were prorated.

Current Policy:

- The new policy counts 100 percent of all household income when determining eligibility.
- Income and resources in both citizen households and households with ineligible non-citizens are treated equally.

State Options:

- USDA provides limited options for states to choose in regards to counting income and resources for those unwilling or unable to provide documentation of their status:

- Count all of the ineligible non-citizens resources and income
OR
- Count all of the ineligible non-citizens resources, and all but a pro-rata share of their income and deductible expenses.

	Pre-PRWORA Ineligibles (Visitors, Students, and Undocumented)	PRWORA Ineligibles (Lawful permanent residents that do not have 5-year residency)
Statewide Options	Option Available?	Option Available?
1. Count pro-rata share of income and deductible expenses	Yes	Yes
2. Apply gross income test first, then count pro-rata share of income and deductible expenses	Yes	No
3. Count all income and deductible expenses	Yes	No
4. Count none of the income and cap allotment at lower amount	No	Yes

SNAP Examples:

Prior to change:

Family of 4 all citizens – household income is \$2400 – entire household is over income standard of \$2389. No citizens receive food assistance.

Family of 4 – 1 individual is undocumented non-citizen – $\frac{3}{4}$ of the household's income ($\frac{3}{4}$ of \$2400=\$1800) is countable so 3 citizens receive food assistance.

After October change:

Family of 4 – 1 individual is undocumented non-citizen – 100% of income is countable – entire household is over income standard of \$2389. No citizens receive food assistance.

SNAP Policy Impact

- SNAP Closures for October and November 2011 due to excess earned income totaled 2,881. Of those 2,881 households, there were 1,042 households that contained one or more ineligible non-citizens.
- System coding shows only increased household income for the 1,042 closures of households which contain ineligible non-citizens. **This increase income may or may not be caused by the SNAP policy change.**