What's Changed on 05/10/2021

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Reminder: Extension to Supplemental NA Benefits (Amended)

General Information: The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

General Information: Forms Update

This page notifies staff and the public of changes to the Cash and Nutrition Assistance Policy (CNAP) Manual regarding policy, procedures, and forms. Reminders and general information may also be displayed on this page. Prior What's Changed pages are listed in <u>FAA6.R01</u> of the CNAP Manual.

The above list summarizes the information on this page. Within the CNAP Manual, each item listed above links to screens below. This page must be discussed during the weekly <u>policy dissemination</u> in every office which determines eligibility, reviews eligibility, or answers questions regarding eligibility. (<u>Current week's FAA-1215A</u>)

Reminder: Extension to Supplemental NA Benefits (Amended)

The Urgent Bulletin emailed on 04/30/2021 was amended on <u>05/04/2021</u> to include changes to processing reported changes and supplements on UNAU due to the \$95 minimum supplement amount.

Be aware of the following when referencing the Urgent Bulletin emailed on <u>04/15/2020</u> regarding reported changes and supplements:

- The process was extended through the benefit month of 05/2021.
- The emergency supplements must be elevated through Region Management unless the change occurred during the 'catch-up' job duration which goes back four months (01/2021 through 05/2021).
- The allotment amount may be higher than the maximum NA allotment effective the benefit month of 04/2021; therefore, do not send an overpayment referral when the NA benefits for the household exceeds the maximum NA allotment due to the \$95 minimum supplement.
- For benefit month 01/2021 and ongoing, use the Thrifty Food Plan at <u>FAA6.J10</u> in the CNAP Manual to identify the maximum NA allotment amount.

General Information: The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband (internet) bills for qualifying low-income households. The FCC has announced that consumers can begin applying for and enrolling in the FCC EBB program on 05/12/2021.

Staff may receive calls or questions regarding this program because people can qualify through participation in SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or other programs assisting low-income households. For this reason, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has been providing technical assistance.

A household qualifies for the FCC EBB when it has an income at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or experienced a substantial loss of income since 02/29/2020. There are several other ways a household may qualify. This includes when the household is receiving SNAP, or they have received approval for benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or school breakfast program in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year.

There are a variety of ways a household can show verification of EBB eligibility criteria. SNAP households may have correspondence they can use to prove enrollment in DES/FAA programs such as a copy of their decision letter. Participants can print a Proof of NA/CA Eligibility card by accessing their account on the MyFamilyBenefits (MFB) website at https://myfamilybenefits.azdes.gov/. The Department of Education has provided schools with a form the school can provide to families to show eligibility for free and reduced school lunch and breakfast.

When the household is eligible, they can receive the following:

- Up to a \$50/month discount on broadband service and associated equipment rentals
- Up to a \$75/month discount when the household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

The program will end when the fund runs out of money, or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner.

Not all broadband providers offer the Emergency Broadband Benefit. Households can find an EBB Program provider in their area, get more information on the program, and learn how to apply at https://getemergencybroadband.org/ and https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit.

General Information: Forms Update

Changes to Forms – 05/01/2021 through 05/07/2021

As a reminder, it is important not to save documents on your desktop or a folder. It is better to use the form you need directly from the <u>Document Center</u>. Forms are frequently updated and sometimes the current form must be used for programming purposes.

Revised forms:

No forms were revised during the specified period

Newly created forms:

No forms were created during the specified period

Revised Marketing Materials (Posters, Pamphlets, Flyers):

No revisions to marketing materials were made during the specified period