

What's Changed on 10/06/2025

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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 [What's Changed History](#) of the CNAP Manual.

The above list summarizes the information on this page. Each item listed above links to the corresponding section below.

Change: Termination of Parole for Certain Qualified Noncitizens

EFFECTIVE DATE: For determinations completed on or after 10/13/2025.

The United States (U.S.) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is proceeding with the termination of the parole status for individuals under the Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan (CHNV) parole programs.

On 06/13/2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued the following guidance on the appropriate actions to take for individuals receiving or applying for NA benefits, who were granted advanced parole through the CHNV parole program. Individuals who agreed to fly at their own expense to an interior port of entry (POE) instead of entering at a land POE received advanced parole through the CHNV parole program between 10/01/2022 and 01/22/2025, under an Executive Order.

Participants paroled through the CHNV program were issued **one** of the following Class of Admissions (COA) codes:

- CHP - Cuban Humanitarian Parolee
- HHP - Haitian Humanitarian Parolee
- NHP - Nicaraguan Humanitarian Parolee
- VHP - Venezuelan Humanitarian Parolee

When the participant was granted parole through the CHNV program, determine whether they have adjusted to another qualifying status. When the participant has not adjusted to another

qualifying status, they are no longer eligible to receive NA benefits. See the procedures outlined in FAA3.D06D titled Nonqualified Noncitizens for additional information.

Cuban and Haitian Entrants (CHEs) remain potentially eligible for NA benefits when **all** of the following apply:

- The participant meets the definition of a CHE as listed in FAA3.D06B titled Qualified Noncitizens.
- Admission into the U.S. was not through the CHNV parole program.

When a new or renewal NA benefit application is received from a participant whose parole through the CHNV program is verified as terminated or expired, and the individual has not adjusted to another qualifying status, FAA staff must complete **one** of the following

- For new applications, disqualify the noncitizen and any other budgetary unit members paroled through the CHNV parole program who have not adjusted to another qualifying status. When all budgetary unit participants are disqualified, deny the application.
- When the budgetary unit is already receiving NA, disqualify the noncitizen and any other budgetary unit members paroled through the CHNV parole program who have not adjusted to another qualifying status at renewal. When all budgetary unit participants are disqualified, deny the renewal application.

NOTE Budgetary units assigned to simplified reporting requirements are not required to report a change in immigration status that occurs during the approval period. These budgetary units are not subject to a potential overpayment referral for benefits received after their parole status was terminated or expired.

When the participant applies for NA, the DHS Verify Legal Presence (VLP) returns the “initiate additional verification” response in HEAplus. After FAA initiates the additional verification process, SAVE provides a “No Status” response when the participant has not adjusted to another qualifying status.

See **all** the procedures outlined in the following for more information:

- [FAA3.D06E.01](#) titled Verify Legal Presence (VLP)
- [FAA3.D06E.02](#) titled Verification Information System (VIS) Procedures

Change: Equifax Usage

The language in the Verified Upon Receipt glossary term was updated on 10/06/2025

For additional clarity of sources considered verified upon receipt, Equifax/EMVI (a.k.a. The Work Number) was added to the list of sources that meet this definition.

Additional verification to effect changes to benefits is not needed when the Equifax verification service provides employment or income information.

Policy reference(s) revised due to this change:

Online change to add Equifax to the list of sources considered verified upon receipt. (Updated as of 10/06/2025)

Clarification: Address Change

When a change of address is reported, update the information as follows:

- Within ten calendar days from the day the change is received.
- For the appropriate month when the move is in the future.

For more information on address changes, see [FAA6.A03C](#) titled Address – Effecting Changes.

Reminder: ABAWD Exemptions No Longer Used

An [Urgent Bulletin](#) was emailed on 10/01/2025 to remind staff that upon the enactment of the federal law (H.R. 1 Act) on 07/04/2025, the changes to the exemptions from three-month ABAWD time limit took immediate effect.

The ABAWD exemptions change became effective in AZTECS on 07/31/2025. Because of this change, *all* of the following exemptions codes cannot be keyed on WERE, beginning with August 2025:

- Foster Care Youths (FC)
- Homelessness (LO)
- Veterans (VA)

AZTECS no longer allows the ABAWD CH Exemption Code for participants residing with a child under the age of 18. The CH exemption code only applies to participants living with and providing care for a child under the age of 14.

Additionally, AZTECS no longer applies the AG exemption for participants over the age of 55. The ABAWD age exemption applies to participants who are 65 years or older.

The FAA Systems Team will run ad hoc reports in October and update cases with countable months to identify all participants who have three months of NA benefits, allowing for a Notice of Adverse Action (NOAA) for the Current System Month (CSM) of November.

Remember to complete the three-month look back for every ABAWD participant to determine whether they received any of these exemptions during August, September, and October, and take appropriate action allowing for NOAA.

Refer to the [Urgent Bulletin](#) titled NA ABAWD Time Limit: Three-Month Look Back, issued on 09/24/2025, for more information about the three-month look-back period.

Reminder: Treatment of Energy Assistance Payments

An [Urgent Bulletin](#) was emailed on 10/03/2025 to inform staff of a change in how energy assistance payments are treated. Upon the enactment of the federal law (H.R. 1 Act) on 07/04/2025, the changes to the treatment of energy assistance payments took immediate effect.

For households that receive energy assistance payments, the changes, because of the new law, will affect all initial applications received on or after 10/06/2025, and for renewal applications, the

benefit month of 11/2025.

Energy Assistance (EA) Payments

Energy Assistance payments made under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (LIHEAA), or other similar energy assistance programs are not countable income. This income should be keyed as EN NC on the unearned income (UNIN) screen in AZTECS.

All other Energy Assistance payments received should be treated as a vendor payment and budgeted according to policy.

Energy Assistance Utility Expense

Households with a participant who is elderly or has a disability are eligible for the heating or cooling Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) when they receive an Energy Assistance payment that meets **all** of the following:

- Is \$20 or more annually.
- Is from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or any similar energy assistance program.
- Is received in the application month or any of the 12 months before the application month.

Households without a participant who is elderly or has a disability that receive an energy assistance payment from LIHEAP or similar energy assistance programs may not be eligible for SUA. To qualify for SUA, the household must incur a heating or cooling expense that is more than the energy assistance payment. When the household has a heating or cooling expense that is less than the energy assistance payment, the household is not eligible for SUA.

Example 1

Sam reports she pays \$300 for electricity, \$80 for gas, \$170 for water, and \$45 for telephone. The household does not have a participant who is elderly or has a disability.

The agency verifies with a hard copy that Sam has and is obligated to pay the utility expenses reported. Sam stated that she heats and cools her home with central heating and cooling, using electricity. The gas is used for cooking.

Sam also stated that she is receiving an energy assistance payment of \$250, which the agency verified is paid from LIHEAP or a similar energy assistance program.

Since Sam receives an energy assistance payment and has an obligation to pay a heating or cooling expense, she is eligible for the SUA.

Electricity \$300

Energy Assistance - \$250

Remaining Electricity = \$50

Key the remaining expenses on EXNS in AZTECS:

EL HC \$50

GS \$80

WA \$170

TL \$45

Example 2

Bob reports he pays \$150 for electricity, \$50 for gas, \$40 for water, and \$45 for telephone. The household does not have a participant who is elderly or has a disability.

The agency has verified with a hard copy that Bob has and is obligated to pay utility expenses. Bob has verified that he heats and cools his home with central heating and cooling, using both electricity and gas.

The agency has verified that Bob is receiving an energy assistance payment of \$200. Bob may qualify for the SUA when he has an out-of-pocket expense. The agency must apply the energy assistance payment to the utility used to heat or cool the home.

Energy Assistance \$200

Electricity - \$150

Remaining Energy Assistance = \$50

The entire electric expense is covered by the assistance payment. There is an energy assistance balance of \$50, which is now applied to the gas bill.

Energy Assistance \$50

Gas - \$50

Remaining Energy Assistance = \$0

The entire gas expense is covered by the assistance payment. Bob does not have an out-of-pocket expense and would not qualify for the SUA; however, Bob does have non-heating or cooling expenses. Bob may qualify for the Limited Utility Allowance (LUA).

Key the remaining expenses on EXNS in AZTECS:

WA \$40

TL \$45

NOTE Do not key EL or GS on EXNS, as AZTECS is code-driven and could apply the SUA even if zeros are entered as the expense amount. Clear and detailed documentation should be given to support the actions taken.

The FAA Policy Support Team (PST) is currently revising the CNAP Manual to include this new directive. Staff must follow the directions provided in this Urgent Bulletin while PST completes the revisions. Once completed, staff will be notified on the weekly What's Changed page in the CNAP Manual.

General Information: Forms Update

Changes to Forms – 09/27/2025 through 10/03/2025

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 [Document Center](#). Forms are frequently updated and sometimes the current form must be used for programming purposes.

Revised forms:

- Verification of Living Arrangements/Residential Address (FAA-0065A) form (English)
Instructions were added that only the landlord can complete sections three and four of the form.
- Verification of Living Arrangements/Residential Address (FAA-0065A-S) form (Spanish)
Instructions were added that only the landlord can complete sections three and four of the form.
- Rights and Responsibilities (FAA-1573A) form (English)
The 130% gross income limits have been updated with the FY2026 COLA amounts.
- Rights and Responsibilities (FAA-1573A-S) form (Spanish)
The 130% gross income limits have been updated with the FY2026 COLA amounts.

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.

New Marketing Materials (Posters, Pamphlets, Flyers):

- No new marketing materials were created during the specified period.

Forms and Marketing Materials Archived from the Document Center:

- No forms were archived from the Document Center.