

## What's Changed on 10/20/2025

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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: Energy Assistance Payments**

EFFECTIVE DATE: For determinations completed on or after 10/06/2025.

The federal law (H.R. 1 Act) enacted on 07/04/2025 changed how energy assistance payments are treated when determining eligibility for NA benefits.

Budgetary units without a participant who is elderly or has a disability may be eligible for the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) when the budgetary unit meets **all** of the following:

- Can provide proof of their heating or cooling expense.
- Is receiving a payment from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or any similar energy assistance program.
- Incurs a heating or cooling expense that is more than the energy assistance payment.

NOTE When the heating or cooling expense is less than the energy assistance payment, the budgetary unit is not eligible for SUA.

Budgetary units that receive Energy Assistance payments and have a participant who is elderly or has a disability are eligible for SUA when the payment meets **all** of the following:

- Is from LIHEAP or any similar energy assistance program.
- The payment is \$20 or more annually.
- Is received in the application month or any of the 12 months before the application month.

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**Policy reference(s) revised due to this change:**

Updated sections regarding the treatment of energy assistance payments for budgetary units with a participant who is elderly or has a disability and budgetary units without a participant who is elderly or has a disability. (Effective for determinations completed on or after 10/06/2025. Updated as of 10/20/2025.)

### **Reminder: NPCR CA Case Participation**

Only one nonparent caretaker relative (NPCR) is eligible to receive benefits in a CA case. One NPCR can optionally be included in the CA budgetary unit while the other is considered a nonparticipant.

When there are two NPCRs and multiple children in the home who are not siblings, it may be beneficial to the participants to split the household members into multiple CA cases.

When there is an NPCR and a parent living in the home, only the parent may participate in the CA case unless **one** of the following applies:

- The parent is determined to be a dependent child.
- The parent and NPCR have another child in common who is deprived because of unemployment or underemployment.
- The parent is an adult (age 18 or over) and is prevented from functioning as the caretaker relative because of a verified physical or mental condition.

Unless one of the previous applies, the NPCR is considered a nonparticipant. The participant who signed the application is considered the primary informant and is also the primary payee cardholder on the EBT account. It is not a requirement that the parent be the primary informant on the CA case. The parent is a mandatory participant and is responsible for complying with all CA compliance requirements including, and not limited to, completing the Personal Responsibility Agreement (PRA).

For examples of the above scenarios, see [Optional CA Participants](#) at FAA2.A06 titled Determining Budgetary Units.

### **Reminder: Responsible for a Child Under Age 14**

An [Urgent Bulletin](#) was emailed on 10/17/2025 to inform staff of new procedures for determining whether an adult participant can receive the CH ABAWD Exemption Code.

Parents and other budgetary unit members can be exempt from the Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit when the participant is responsible for a child in the budgetary unit who is under the age of 14.

When an adult member in the budgetary unit is not responsible for a child under age 14, staff need to review the participant's situation and determine whether the participant meets another ABAWD or NA work requirement exemption or is subject to the ABAWD three-month time limit.

During an interview, AZTECS may display CH in the WERE EXPT RSN FS field on WERE. When a participant indicates they are not responsible for a child under age 14 in the budgetary unit, key the most appropriate ABAWD code for the participant's circumstances in the WERE EXPT RSN FS field.

Effective 10/20/2025, staff can key the NE code over the CH code when the participant does not meet any other exemption.

### **Important Note**

AZTECS will continue to run the ABAWD hierarchy every time staff access WERE before and after approval of benefits. AZTECS will automatically update the exemptions based on whether there is a child under age 14 in the budgetary unit. By pressing Enter, the screen will be updated based on the AZTECS ABAWD hierarchy. To avoid unwanted updates on WERE, press F9 to exit WERE.

Staff will be notified once FAA Systems completes the AZTECS update to the ABAWD hierarchy.

When an NA participant does not qualify for any exemptions, follow the standard work and complete **all** of the following actions to help the ABAWD participant from becoming disqualified due to the ABAWD time limit:

- Use the NA ABAWD and Work Registration Script (FAA-1786A) to ensure the participant understands the ABAWD time limit, exemptions, and work requirements.
- Use the SNAP CAN Referral script (FAA-1878A) to inform the participant that they can meet the ABAWD work requirement by voluntarily participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Career Advancement Network (SNAP CAN).
- Key Y in the REF Y/N field on WORW so that the participant has the required referral from FAA to participate in employment and training components that SNAP CAN offers.
- Educate participants that they need to report a change to FAA when they voluntarily begin participating in SNAP CAN to avoid being disqualified after receiving three full months of NA benefits.

### **General Information: Forms Update**

Changes to Forms – 10/11/2025 through 10/17/2025

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:

- 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.

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.