What's Changed on 05/17/2021

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Change: Expungement of Benefits

Change: DNAP Temporary 15% Increase to Allotments

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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 <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>)

Change: Expungement of Benefits

EFFECTIVE DATE: For eligibility determinations completed on or after 05/17/2021

This change was made to expand the definition of expunged benefits

Expunged benefits are benefits that are deleted from an EBT account when an EBT account has been deactivated in the following situations:

- Benefits in an EBT account that have not been accessed by the budgetary unit for 274 days from the availability date for NA or 180 days for CA.
- An EBT account has been deactivated due to the death of the entire budgetary unit.

Policy reference(s) revised due to this change:

FAA6.A03 – Changes in Primary Informant

Prior Policy

Added a reference to "expunged benefits" when case is denied or closed due to death of entire budgetary unit. (Effective for all eligibility determination completed on or after 05/17/2021)

FAAEBT.A05K – <u>EBT Benefit Issuance and</u> Availability - Inactive Account

Prior Policy

Revised that when an EBT account is deactivated benefits are expunged. (Effective with all applications received on or after 05/17/2021)

Change: DNAP Temporary 15% Increase to Allotments

EFFECTIVE DATE: For eligibility determinations completed during approval of the Disaster Nutrition Assistance Program (DNAP) on or after 01/01/2021

This change was made due to the temporary 15% increase to the DNAP and the Disaster Standard Expense Deduction (DSED) allotments.

The DNAP DSED temporary 15% increase became effective January 1, 2021. The amounts increased the DNAP DSED allotments over the 10/2020 established amounts. The following chart displays the maximum allotment for each household when there is a Presidential declaration of disaster.

NA Budgetary Unit Size	10/2020 Maximum Allotment	01/2021 through 09 Maximum Allotme
1	\$204	\$234
2	\$374	\$430
3	\$535	\$616
4	\$680	\$782
5	\$807	\$929
6	\$969	\$1114
7	\$1071	\$1232
8	\$1224	\$1408
Each Additional Participant Add	\$153	+\$176

Reminder: Entering Unknown Date of Birth

During the On-Site-Expert (OSE) Call, which took place on 4/15/21, staff raised questions regarding entering an unknown date of birth (DOB) for clients on HEAplus applications. Workers must follow the same procedure for an unknown DOB in HEAplus as they would in AZTECS.

When the DOB is unknown in AZTECS, use the approximate date of July 01 and key as 0701 (MMDD) and the approximate year of birth (YYYY).

In HEAplus, when the DOB is unknown, the same procedure is followed. Enter July 01, when entering the DOB on the Member Information page in HEAplus, with the approximate year of birth.

For more information, see <u>FAA2.L04A</u> in the CNAP Manual.

Reminder: New NA Student Exemptions

Per the <u>Urgent Bulletin</u> emailed on 01/14/2021 Temporary Nutrition Assistance (NA) Student Eligibility Exemption Code, two more exemptions were added for students in an institute of higher learning.

Have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0 stated on the Student Aid Report (SAR) or

any other financial aid verification for the current academic school year.

 Are eligible to participate in a state or federally financed work-study program during the current academic school year as identified on the Financial Aid Award Letter. The Pandemic Student (PS) exemption is different from the current Work-Study (WS) student exemption. Students meeting the PS exemption need only to be eligible for work-study and do not have a requirement to participate.

Verification of the new PS Student Exemptions includes but is not limited to:

- The Student Aid report
- Financial Aid Award letter
- Letters from the school that specifically indicate the exemption that the student meets
- Printouts from the student portal account showing confirmation of one of the two exemptions.
- Collateral Contacts to the school

Workers are to assist in obtaining verification, so students are afforded the opportunity to participate in the NA program.

General Information: Notice Changes

The Family Assistance Administration (FAA) in collaboration with the consultation firm, Cast and Hue, conducted a field study of several FAA notices. Based on feedback from clients and guidance from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), notices will be simplified and streamlined.

The following changes will be made to the notices:

- Simplified the verbiage.
- Removed verbiage that does not pertain to the client's circumstances when possible.
- Removed the complex budget calculation and replaced it with a simple statement of income and expenses.
- Changed the date format. Dates will no longer be written numerically; dates will be written out. Example: April 9, 2021.
- Increased automation of the notices (less checkboxes for the workers to key).

This is an ongoing project, and the notices will be listed in the Notice section of the "What's Changed Page" when they are revised.

The first notices to be simplified and streamlined will be updated in production on May 20, 2021. The following is a list of those notices:

- NA Approval (F100) Notice
- NA Renewal Approval (F101) Notice
- Expedited NA Postponed Verification (F121) Notice

General Information: Forms Update

Changes to Forms – 05/08/2021 through 05/14/2021

As a reminder, it is important not to save documents on your desktop or a loider. 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