

04 Food Stamp Categorical Eligibility - Overview

Consider a budgetary unit categorically eligible to receive FS when any of the following apply:

- ONE or MORE participants receive, or are authorized to receive [TANF benefits or services\(g\)](#) and the entire FS budgetary unit benefits from them. This applies even when one of the following occurs:

The CA benefit is less than \$10.

Benefits are being recouped and no payment is made.

(See Examples [CE TANF 1-7](#))

- ALL participants in a budgetary unit receive, or are authorized to receive, GA or **SSI** or a combination of these benefits.

NOTE Disabled participants receive [special considerations](#) when budgeting and determining eligibility for FS.

This includes participants whose SSI benefits are in [no-pay\(g\)](#) or [suspend status\(g\)](#).

(See Example [CE GA or SSI 1](#) and Example [CE GA or SSI 2](#))

Applicants who apply for SSI and FS before their release from an institution are not categorically eligible until both of the following occur:

- Their SSI is approved.
- They are released from the institution. The effective date of the application is the date of release.

EXCEPTION

This does not include SSI participants who meet one of the following:

Payments are suspended for failure to comply with a drug or alcohol treatment requirement.

Ineligible for SSI and considered in SSI non-pay status.

(See [Exceptions to FS Categorical Eligibility](#))

Consider an FS categorically eligible budgetary unit to have met the following FS Eligibility Factors:

- Resources.
- [Gross](#) and [net](#) income tests.
- [Sponsored noncitizen information](#).
- [Residency](#).
- [Social Security numbers](#) for CA and GA participants, and SSI recipients.

(See [Food Stamp Categorical Special Keying Procedures](#))

A budgetary unit remains categorically eligible for FS when one or more participants in the budgetary unit are not participating because of one of the following reasons:

- The participant is a [nonqualified noncitizen](#) or verification to resolve questionable citizenship is pending.
- The participant is [institutionalized](#) in a nonexempt facility.
- The participant is disqualified from CA or SSI for failure to provide or apply for an [SSN](#).

Policy and procedures regarding FS categorical eligibility are outlined as follows:

- [Categorical Eligibility Application Process](#)
- [Categorical Eligibility Benefit Calculation](#)
- [Food Stamp Categorical Eligibility Exceptions](#)
- [No Pay Status](#)
- [Categorical Eligibility Verification](#)
- [Food Stamp Categorical Special Keying](#)