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SNAP Policy Update #10 15-16'

DATE: May 31, 2016

RE: Policy Reminder Regarding Strikers and SNAP

This policy update highlights information provided by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) through [GIS 16 TA/DC032](#). This GIS is a reference tool that highlights and reminds SNAP offices of existing Temporary Assistance (TA) and SNAP policy regarding the impact of a strike on applicants and recipients. There is **no NEW policy information** provided in OTDA's GIS or in this SNAP Policy Update.

Background

Currently there are several strikes involving statewide workforces happening in NYS. This has generated questions from SNAP Offices regarding how to treat strikers applying for or participating in SNAP and/or TA. This SNAP Policy Update will focus on the impact to SNAP applicants and recipients.

SNAP Eligibility Rules for Strikers

If any wage earner in a household is participating in a job action (on strike, a walk-out, etc.), the striker and the whole household are ineligible for SNAP unless they were eligible for benefits before the strike began.

The following people are NOT considered to be strikers:

- People who have been locked out of their workplace,
- People out of work because of someone else's strike,
- People in a different bargaining unit who are afraid to cross a picket line,
- Strikers who have been permanently replaced, or
- People exempt from work (other than those exempt because they are working).

SNAP work-exempt individuals include but are not limited to people who are:

- Age 60 and older,
- A Caretaker of child under 6 or incapacitated person,
- Disabled or physically and mentally unable to work, or
- College Students who meet the SNAP student rules.

For a complete list of who is exempt from participating in SNAP work activities see page 27 of our SNAP Prescreening Guide.

Determining Eligibility and Income for Households That Include a Striker and are SNAP Eligible

For households with a wage earner that is participating in a job action, but where the household was eligible to participate in SNAP prior to the strike, the following rules apply. Pre-strike eligibility is

determined by using information from the day prior to the strike and applying that date as the application date.

The income of the striking member is determined by comparing his/her income the day prior to the strike to his/her current income. The higher of the two incomes will be budgeted and applied as the income of the striker and must be added to all other income of non-striking household members.

Households will not be eligible for increased SNAP benefits due to a decrease in the income of the striking member.

Links

- [GIS 16 TA/DC032](#) – Temporary Assistance and SNAP Policy Reminder Regarding Strikers
- [Section 5, page 131 of the SNAP Source Book](#)
- [HSNY SNAP Prescreening Guide](#), page 24 and page 27

Help for Your Clients

There are Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) Coordinators in many communities across NYS. NOEP Coordinators are available to help potentially eligible individuals and families apply for SNAP benefits by:

- conducting confidential pre-screenings to see if a family may be eligible for SNAP,
- assisting with completing the application, including the online version,
- answering any questions, and/or
- working with current recipients around recertification or other issues with their SNAP case.

NOEP Coordinators can also come to your community site to help your clients.

To find out if there is a NOEP Coordinator in your community, go to: <http://www.foodhelpny.org>.

Visit <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/dss.asp> for a listing of SNAP offices and contact information outside of NYC or call 1-800-342-3009.

Visit http://www.nyc.gov/html/hra/html/services/snap_centers.shtml for a listing of SNAP offices in New York City or call 311.

For More Information

If you have any questions about this SNAP update or SNAP in general, please contact Dawn Secor via phone at (518) 436-8757 ext. 112, or by e-mailing dawn.secor@hungersolutionsny.org.