



14 Computer Drive East
Albany, NY 12205
518.436.8757 PH
518.458.6068 FAX
HungerSolutionsNY.org

SNAP Policy Update #8 15-16'

DATE: March 31, 2016

RE: SNAP Treatment of Funds in Online “Crowdfunding” Accounts

This policy update highlights information provided by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) through [GIS TA/DC011](#). It is focused on how to treat online “crowdfunding” accounts for the purpose of determining SNAP eligibility.

Background Information

There are now many websites that allow people to donate to fund-specific campaigns for all kinds of purposes, including donations to individuals in need (e.g. GoFundMe, Kickstarter). Recently the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued guidance to states on how to treat online “crowdfunding” accounts held in the name of SNAP applicants/recipients, when determining SNAP eligibility for these households.

Treatment of “Crowdfunding” Accounts for the Purpose of Determining SNAP Eligibility

Crowdfunding accounts are **NOT considered income**. These accounts **are considered a resource** if the money in the account is accessible to the SNAP household.

How crowdfunding accounts should be factored into SNAP eligibility depends on when the account holder can access the funds. Most crowdfunding websites require that accounts have specific funding goals, but some websites allow the account holder to access the funds throughout the online campaign, while others only allow the account holder to access the funds once the campaign goal is met.

The SNAP office must, on a case-by-case basis, determine if funds in an online account are accessible to the SNAP households at the time of the interview. Most SNAP households in NYS do not have to meet a resource test in order to be eligible for SNAP due to expanded categorical eligibility and therefore, access to funds in an online account will not impact SNAP eligibility for these families.

However, households eligible for SNAP expedited processing rules must meet a liquid resource test over and above the regular resource test, and funds in an online account that are accessible to SNAP households count as a liquid resource. Households determined to have more than \$100 in liquid resources are not qualified for expedited processing. This is true even if the funds in the online account are used only to pay a deductible expense like medical bills or shelter costs. In such a case, the SNAP office would deduct the allowable expense as part of the regular SNAP budget process.

Link:

- [GIS TA/DC011](#) – SNAP Treatment of Funds in Online “Crowdfunding” Accounts
- [Hunger Solutions New York SNAP Guide](#) – More information on expanded categorical eligibility, expedited processing rules and many other SNAP topics.

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
- 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.