Online Guide Transmittal 2024-9
February 7, 2024

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From: Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: SNAP: Implementing the State SNAP Supplement

Overview

On December 4, 2023, Governor Healey signed a bill which included funding for DTA to administer a state-funded SNAP supplement for certain non-citizens who are not currently eligible for federal SNAP. These newly-eligible clients include those who are Permanently Residing Under the Color of Law (PRUCOL) and Humanitarian Parolees.

Active SNAP households with members newly eligible for the State SNAP Supplement will receive these benefits retroactive to December 4, 2023.

Newly applying SNAP households with members eligible for the State SNAP Supplement, will receive these benefits retroactive to the date of application or December 4, 2023, whichever is later.

Please Note: System enhancements are not live. Please review material in preparation for the release. You will be notified when system enhancements are live in BEACON for the State SNAP Supplement.

Important: The State SNAP Supplement is not only relevant to First Available Workers (FAWs). Clients receiving Economic Assistance (specifically EAEDC), can potentially meet eligibility for the State SNAP Supplement. Therefore, Economic Assistance case managers are required to review this guidance.
Overview (Continued)

The State SNAP Supplement follows the policy and procedures of the SNAP program with some noted exceptions: noticing, minimum benefit issuance, and related benefit processing for mixed households (i.e., households with some persons eligible for state, some persons eligible for federal, and some persons who are legally residing but ineligible for federal or state).

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide update is to inform staff of the implementation of the State SNAP Supplement. This documentation will focus on the following subtopics:

- Noncitizens Eligible for State SNAP Supplement;
- Identifying State SNAP Supplement Information in BEACON;
- Coding of Noncitizens in BEACON;
- Calculation Rules and the Treatment of Income for Mixed Noncitizen Households;
- Noticing, Texts, and Email Notifications;
- Related Benefits for State SNAP Supplement; and
- Replacement of Stolen State SNAP Supplements.

Noncitizens Eligible for State SNAP Supplement

Noncitizens eligible for the State SNAP Supplement are PRUCOLs and certain Parolees. The details of how these noncitizens are identified in BEACON is outlined in the State SNAP Supplement subchapter.

Processing Expedited Benefits for State SNAP Supplements

When a client applies for SNAP benefits (federal), BEACON will also determine if the household is eligible for the State SNAP Supplement. You must screen all applicant households for expedited benefits regardless of household composition. Some households will include members eligible for federal SNAP and some members eligible for the State SNAP Supplement. These mixed households must also be screened for eligibility for expedited benefits.

When a household applies for SNAP benefits, you must screen the household for expedited benefits by answering the questions in BEACON. You must also be careful to appropriately code any noncitizen in the household with the correct INS designation on the INS Designation page. In addition, if the noncitizen is ineligible for federal SNAP, you must deny each ineligible noncitizen on the AU Composition Results page. The correct noncitizen coding is important for BEACON to determine eligibility for expedited and for the correct benefit type to be issued (i.e., federal SNAP and/or State SNAP Supplement).
BEACON has been updated with new columns and data points on the Interview Wrap Up EBC Result and the ECF Result tab to identify State SNAP Supplement information.

State SNAP Supplement benefit issuances can be viewed on the Benefit History tab. These payments will have a benefit Type of “State Food Stamp”.

More details regarding identification of State SNAP Supplement information are outlined in the State SNAP Supplement subchapter.

It is important that noncitizens are correctly coded on pertinent BEACON pages. With the implementation of the State SNAP Supplement, it is critical that staff follow current procedures for coding noncitizens. This will allow BEACON to identify noncitizens eligible for the State SNAP Supplement and apply the appropriate calculation, as necessary, for each household.

To assist staff in properly coding noncitizens on the INS Designation page in BEACON, the Entering Citizenship and Noncitizen Data in BEACON chapter has been renamed Entering Noncitizen Data in BEACON and moved to the SNAP Noncitizen chapter.

In addition, details about how to answer the question posed in the Legal FS Disqualified indicator field have been added to the Entering INS Designation OLG page for existing INS Designations.

Households containing both eligible members and legal noncitizens ineligible for federal SNAP benefits have special calculation rules. For these households BEACON will complete a combination calculation following the procedures outlined at 106 CMR 364.600(C). In the final step of this calculation, BEACON will compare the results from the two calculations and issue the household the lower benefit amount.

More information, including examples, is provided on the Calculation Rules and Treatment of Income for Mixed Noncitizen Households and the State SNAP Supplement OLG pages.
State SNAP Supplement notices inform clients about changes to their State SNAP Supplement. Four supplement notices are defined below:

- The *State SNAP Supplement Expedited* notice will be issued when a case is authorized for the expedited issuance of the State SNAP Supplement.
- The *State SNAP Supplement Approval* notice will be issued when a case is approved for the State SNAP Supplement.
- The *State SNAP Supplement Case Maintenance* notice will be issued when a case is active for the State SNAP Supplement and has a change to their benefit amount (including state supplement going to zero in an active household).
- The *State SNAP Supplement Closing* notice is a manual notice that will be issued when a State SNAP Supplement closes. It will not be generated by BEACON but will be issued by the Central Case Management Office (CCMO).

In addition to a standard notice (by mail), clients will also be sent a text message and an email upon first issuance of the State SNAP Supplement.

Additional details about notices, texts, and emails are outlined on the State SNAP Supplement OLG page.

Related benefits households receiving **solely** State SNAP Supplement will follow the same procedures for issuing related benefits for federal SNAP. This means the related benefit will require supervisory sign-off. All related benefits for State SNAP Supplements must be issued using the Related Benefit Type *SSFSP Supp./Immed. Issuance*.

Mixed households (i.e., households with some persons eligible for state, some persons eligible for federal, and some persons who are legally residing but ineligible for federal or state) that required a related benefit, will be handled by the CCMO. Case details must be emailed to the CCMO at DTA-DL-CCMOTeam@MassMail.State.MA.US.
Replacement of Stolen State SNAP Supplements

When a client reports electronic theft of their SNAP, TAFDC, EAEDC or any combination of programs, the DTA staff member who takes this report is expected to initiate the benefit theft claim and document the claim in the case narrative as outlined on the Benefit Theft page.

For households receiving:

- Federal SNAP, you must submit the claim using the Benefit Theft page in BEACON.
- State and federal SNAP (i.e., mixed noncitizen households), you must submit the claim using the Benefit Theft page in BEACON.
- Only the State SNAP Supplement, you must gather details of the theft to authenticate the claim and email the information to the Fraud Investigation Unit.

Additional details about the Replacement of Stolen State SNAP Supplements are outlined on the State SNAP Supplement OLG page.

New Online Guide Pages

| Topic: SNAP | Book: Eligibility Requirements |
| Chapter: Noncitizen | Subchapter: State SNAP Supplement |
| Page: State SNAP Supplement |

| Topic: SNAP | Book: Eligibility Requirements |
| Chapter: Noncitizen | Page: PRUCOL |

| Topic: SNAP | Book: Eligibility Requirements |
| Chapter: Noncitizen | Page: Calculation Rules and Treatment of Income for Mixed Noncitizen Households |

Revised Online Guide Pages

| Topic: SNAP | Book: Eligibility Requirements |
| Chapter: Noncitizen | Subchapter: Entering Noncitizen Data in BEACON |
| Page: Entering INS Designation |
### Online Guide

**Pages that Have Been Moved into a New Chapter**

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### Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to [DTA.Procedural Issues](#).

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
On December 4, 2023, Governor Healey signed a bill which included funding for DTA to administer a state-funded SNAP supplement for certain noncitizens who are not currently eligible for federal SNAP. These newly eligible clients include those who are Permanently Residing Under the Color of Law (PRUCOL) and certain Parolees, not otherwise eligible for federally funded SNAP benefits.

Active SNAP households with members newly eligible for the State SNAP Supplement will receive State SNAP Supplement benefits retroactive to December 4, 2023.

Newly applying SNAP households with members eligible for the State SNAP Supplement, will receive the State SNAP Supplement retroactive to the date of application or December 4, 2023, whichever is later.

The State SNAP Supplement follows the policy and procedures of the SNAP program with some noted exceptions: noticing, minimum benefit issuance, and related benefit processing for mixed noncitizen households (i.e., households with any combination of persons eligible for federal, persons eligible for state, or persons who are legally residing but ineligible for federal or state).
Noncitizens Eligible for State SNAP Supplement (Back to Index)

Certain noncitizens that do not qualify for federal SNAP benefits are eligible for the State SNAP Supplement. Noncitizens eligible for the State SNAP Supplement are:

- **PRUCOLs.** This includes individuals coded in BEACON as PRUCOL and:
  - Asylee (Status – Pending). This does not include individuals from Cuba or Haiti, as they would be eligible for federal SNAP as Cuban/Haitian Entrants.
  - Parolee - Individuals paroled for a period of less than one-year (regardless of age) are coded as PRUCOLs in BEACON.

- **Humanitarian Parolees.** This status does not appear in BEACON; the individuals who qualify as Humanitarian Parolees are coded in BEACON as:
  - Parolee – Individuals from Venezuela, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Ecuador that have been granted humanitarian parole and do not meet eligibility for federally funded SNAP benefits as they are paroled for a period less than a year or they are paroled for more than one year but do not meet the 5-year bar.
  - Parolee – Paroled (18 and over) for a period of at least one year, but do not meet eligibility for federal SNAP as they have resided in the US for less than 5 years. These individuals are coded in BEACON as Parolees.
  - Special Humanitarian Parolee – Individuals from Afghanistan and Ukraine that have been granted humanitarian parole but who do not meet eligibility for federally funded SNAP benefits as Afghan Humanitarian Parolee or Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee (based on date of arrival or expiration of parole status).

Reminder: The parole period refers to the start and end date of which the individual is paroled for not the length of time they have been residing in the US. The parole period is recorded on their immigration documentation and must be entered into BEACON on the INS Designation page.

For example: Emmanuel applied for SNAP benefits on 2/6/2024. His immigration documentation shows that he has been paroled into the United States, with a start date of 2/1/2024 and an end date of 1/31/2026. While Emmanuel has been in the US less than a year, their parole period is greater than one year.

It is important that noncitizens are correctly coded on pertinent BEACON pages. With the implementation of the State SNAP Supplement, it is critical that staff follow current procedures for coding noncitizens. This will allow BEACON to identify noncitizens eligible for the State SNAP Supplement and apply the appropriate calculation, as necessary, for each household. For more information on how to code noncitizens go to the Entering INS Designation OLG page for existing INS Designations.

Processing Expedited Benefits for State SNAP Supplements (Back to Index)

When a client applies for SNAP benefits, during the interview you must screen for expedited benefits. The household may be eligible for federal SNAP expedited benefits, State SNAP Supplement expedited benefits or a combination of both. For more information on screening and issuing expedited benefits see Expedited Benefits and Issuing Expedited Benefits.
In order for BEACON to correctly issue federal SNAP and/or State SNAP Supplement expedited benefits you must be careful to appropriately code any noncitizen in the household with the correct INS designation on the INS Designation page. In addition, if the noncitizen is ineligible for federal SNAP, you must deny each ineligible noncitizen on the AU Composition Results page. To deny the individual you must:

1. go to the AU Composition Results page
2. select the client who needs to be denied. This action will populate the AU tab and AU Member tab on the bottom half of the page
3. select the “Program Rules” from the Reason category drop-down box in the AU Member tab
4. select “Ineligible Noncitizen” as the closing reason from the Reason drop-down box, and
5. click the Save button, and
6. click Finish.

Changes Reported to Cases Active for State SNAP Supplement and Denied for Federal SNAP

At application, some clients may be denied federal SNAP benefits, for a financial or nonfinancial reason, and approved for the State SNAP Supplement. After the case has been established for the State SNAP Supplement, it is possible for the household to report a change to their household circumstances. This reported change could now cause the household to be eligible for federal SNAP, in addition to an increase or decrease in their existing State SNAP Supplement. When this happens, it is important that the client not be advised to reapply for SNAP, as they would be already Active in BEACON because they are receiving the State SNAP Supplement.

The worker must make any verified changes to the case and re-wrap the case. The client will be issued an EBC Notice for the change(s) reported, and the State SNAP Supplement Case Maintenance Notice will be included in the same envelope.

Benefit Issuance

Newly Applying

The state funded supplement for new applications will be issued upon approval and will be prorated back to the application date (as is done with federal benefits). The monthly State SNAP Supplement will be issued on the federal schedule which is determined by the last digit of the grantee’s SSN.

Retroactive Supplement

The following households will receive a retroactive State SNAP Supplement:

- Existing households with federal SNAP that include member(s) who will receive the State SNAP Supplement as of 12/4/2023; and
- New applicants for federal SNAP, with a benefit effective date on or after 12/4/2023 through the implementation date of the State SNAP Supplement. If eligible, these households will receive a retroactive payment of the State SNAP
Supplement back to December 4, 2023, or their benefit effective date, whichever is later.

The retroactive payment will be the full monthly State SNAP Supplement amount, it will not be prorated. This amount will be based on the latest released case data. The monthly State SNAP Supplement will be issued on the same dates as the federal SNAP payments, which is determined by the last digit of the grantee’s SSN.

Unlike federal SNAP benefits, State SNAP Supplement households will be issued the calculated benefit amount, even if it is less than $10.

**Outreach to Denied/Closed Households**

IT will provide a list of cases that were denied/closed for a financial reason and potentially qualify for a state funded supplement. The Department will conduct outreach and cases may be reopened or reinstated so they can receive the State SNAP Supplement going forward. A retroactive payment will be issued to eligible households.

The outreach populations are described below:

- Households that were denied for a financial reason, with an application date of 12/4/2023 or later, and have at least one household member eligible for the State SNAP Supplement.
- Households that were closed for a financial reason, with a closing date of 12/4/2023 or later, and have at least one household member eligible for the State SNAP Supplement.

**Identifying State SNAP Supplement Information in BEACON** ([Back to Index](#))

BEACON will identify noncitizens that are eligible for the State SNAP Supplement by looking for one of the INS Designations:

- **PRUCOLs** (Status – Active)
- **Asylee** (Status – Pending)
- **Parolee** (Status – Active)
- **Special Humanitarian Parolee** (Status – Active)

and the noncitizen is coded in BEACON as an ineligible member for federal SNAP with a Reason of “Ineligible Noncitizen” on the AU Composition Results page.

**Interview Wrap Up EBC Results and ECF Results Tab** ([Back to Index](#))

The Interview Wrap Up EBC Results page and the ECF Result tab will display the following columns:

- **Benefit** – This column will display the sum of the federal benefit and State SNAP Supplement.

- **Funding** – This column will display:
  - **Federal** when there is only a federal benefit;
  - **State** when there is only a State SNAP Supplement; and
  - **Fed+State** when there is both a federal benefit and a state supplement. This will be blank when the result is a denial/closure or not a SNAP household.
• **Reason** – This column will display a denial reason:
  - with a prefix of **Federal** when the result is ineligible for federal SNAP benefits, but eligible for the State SNAP Supplement.
  - without a prefix when the result is ineligible for federal SNAP benefits and ineligible for the State SNAP Supplement.

• **State SNAP** – This is a member level State SNAP Supplement indicator on the AU Member tab that identifies the household member(s) eligible to receive the State SNAP Supplement. Noncitizens that are eligible for the State SNAP Supplement will have a Yes in the State SNAP column.

  **Note**
  The Yes indicator will display beside any noncitizen eligible for the State SNAP Supplement based on INS Designation, even if the household is denied the state supplement for another eligibility reason.

The Financial tab of the Interview Wrap Up EBC Results page and the ECF Result tab will display the following SNAP Supplement information:

• **State AU Size** – This will display in Standard Amounts section.

• **Monthly State Allotment** – This will display in the Benefit section (amount before Recoupment).

• **State Allotment** – This will display in the Benefit section (amount after Recoupment).

• **Benefit Amount** – This will display the sum of the federal benefit and State SNAP Supplement (amount after Recoupment), in the Benefit section.
Benefit History (Back to Index)

The Benefit History tab will display the amount of State SNAP Supplement issued. State SNAP Supplements will have a benefit Type of **State Food Stamp**.

**Note:** Although the Results tab will display the sum of federal benefits and the State SNAP supplement, the Benefit History tab will identify the amounts paid for each type of benefit.
State SNAP Supplement notices inform clients about changes to their State SNAP Supplement. The four supplement notices are defined below:

- **The State SNAP Supplement Expedited** notice will be issued when a case is authorized for the expedited issuance of the State SNAP Supplement (pending status). This will generate:
  - with the EBC notice for mixed households when case has federal plus state expedited benefits; or
  - as a standalone notice when a case has state-only expedited benefits.

- **The State SNAP Supplement Approval** notice will be issued when a case is approved for the State SNAP Supplement (status active). This will generate:
  - with the EBC notice for households newly approved for the State SNAP Supplement; or
  - as a standalone notice for households actively receiving federal SNAP and which include household member(s) newly approved for the State SNAP Supplement on the implementation date of the State SNAP Supplement.

- **The State SNAP Supplement Case Maintenance** notice will be issued when a case is active for the State SNAP Supplement and has a change to their benefit amount (including state supplement going to zero in an active household). This will generate:
  - with the EBC notice for mixed households with a change to federal and state benefits; or
  - as a standalone notice for households that are receiving State SNAP Supplement only.

- **The State SNAP Supplement Closing** notice will be issued when a case receiving State SNAP Supplements closes. This notice will not be generated in BEACON. IT
will provide a report of closed cases to the Central Case Management Office (CCMO). This unit will complete a manual closing notice for these cases.

| Note | Since the State SNAP Supplement Closing notice will not be generated from BEACON, it will not display in the Client Communication tab. However, this notice will be attached to the case narrative by the CCMO unit. |

Clients will be sent a text message and an email upon first issuance of the State SNAP Supplement. The text and email will state:

“MA issued you a new State SNAP payment. You can use this money to buy food. The State SNAP Supplement is for some immigrants who are not eligible for federal SNAP benefits. Learn more at: www.mass.gov/StateSNAP. Go to DTA Connect to check your benefits: https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov”

Related Benefits (Back to Index)

Related benefits for households receiving solely State SNAP Supplements will follow the same procedures as when issuing related benefits for federal SNAP. This means the related benefit will require supervisory sign-off. All related benefits for State SNAP Supplement must be issued using the Related Benefit Type SSFSP Supp./Immed. Issuance.

Mixed households (i.e., households with some persons eligible for state, some persons eligible for federal, and some persons who are legally residing but ineligible for federal or state SNAP) that require a related benefit, will be handled by the CCMO. If you encounter a mixed household that requires a related benefit, you must email the case details to the CCMO at DTA-DL-CCMOTeam@MassMail.State.MA.US.

Replacement of Stolen State SNAP Supplements (Back to Index)

When a client reports electronic theft of their SNAP, TAFDC, EAEDC or any combination of programs, the DTA staff member who takes this report is expected to initiate the benefit theft claim and document the claim in the case narrative as outlined on the Benefit Theft page. This includes mixed noncitizen households receiving a combination of federal and state SNAP benefits. The Fraud Investigation Unit will be responsible for determining if the stolen benefits are federal, state, or a combination of both.

When a client receives only the State SNAP Supplement and is reporting benefit theft, it is essential to gather details of the theft to authenticate the claim. Below is the procedure for gathering benefit theft details for households receiving only the State SNAP Supplement and making a referral to Fraud Investigation.

To make a Program Integrity referral for a claim of stolen State SNAP Supplements, please follow these steps:

1. Document the circumstances and details of the benefit theft in the case Narrative:
   a. Benefit Type (i.e., State SNAP Supplement)
   b. Claim Date
Making a Fraud Investigation referral is not an approval of the claim. However, these are key steps that will ensure that the stolen benefits can be replaced once a claim is validated by the Fraud Investigation Unit.

### Calculation Rules and Attribution of Income for Mixed Noncitizen Households

Households containing both eligible members and legal noncitizens ineligible for federal SNAP benefits have special calculation rules. For these households BEACON will complete a combination calculation following the procedures outlined at 106 CMR 364.600(C). In the final step of this calculation, BEACON will compare the results from the two calculations and issue the household the lower benefit amount.

#### Combination Calculation for Mixed Noncitizen Households

Step One (Universal Calculation): Calculate SNAP benefits using all household members, all household members’ income, and full deductions to determine the maximum SNAP benefits the household would be entitled to if all members were federally SNAP-eligible.

Step Two (Federally Eligible Only): Calculate SNAP benefits for federally eligible SNAP members, excluding the income and deductions of legal noncitizens ineligible for SNAP benefits.

Step Three (Comparison): Compare the results from Step One and Step Two.
- If the Step Two amount exceeds or is equal to the Step One amount, the Department will pay the Step One amount as the federal SNAP benefit.
- If the Step Two amount is less than the Step One amount, the Department will pay the Step Two amount as the federal SNAP benefit.

#### Treatment of Income Under the Combination Calculation for Mixed Noncitizen Household

In the combination calculation for mixed noncitizen households, income is sometimes attributed differently than in a standard SNAP calculation. This means income is sometimes shifted to maximize the SNAP benefit amount to the eligible household. Please refer to Example 3 below, outlined under Examples of Mixed Noncitizen Households.

The following are rules for attributing income under the combination SNAP calculation outlined above and in accordance with 106 CMR 364.600(C):

#### Cash Assistance Grants
- Cash assistance grants will not be prorated.
• In a SNAP case that includes one adult and one or more dependents, the cash assistance grant belongs to the adult.

• In a SNAP case that includes two adults and one or more dependents, where one adult is SNAP-eligible and the other is a noncitizen ineligible for Federal SNAP Benefits, the cash assistance grant belongs to the noncitizen ineligible for federal SNAP Benefits.

• In a SNAP case that includes one adult who is an ineligible cash grantee and one or more dependents, the cash assistance grant belongs to the ineligible grantee.

• In a SNAP case that includes an ineligible cash-grantee and one or more other persons who are adults, the cash assistance grant belongs to one of the adults who is a noncitizen ineligible for federal SNAP Benefits.

• In a SNAP case that includes a sanctioned cash-grantee and one or more dependents, the cash assistance grant belongs to the sanctioned grantee.

• In a SNAP case that includes a sanctioned cash-grantee and one or more other persons who are adults, the cash assistance grant belongs to one of the adults who is noncitizens who are ineligible for federal SNAP benefits.

Earned Income
Earned income belongs to the person who earns the income.

Unearned Income
Unearned income such as veterans’ benefits, private pensions, Social Security, RSDI or SSI belongs to the person who receives it.

Deductible Expenses
The following are rules for attributing deductible expenses under the combination SNAP calculation:

• All applicable deductions will be used in Step One of the combination calculation (which includes all household members, those federally-eligible and those not eligible).

• The standard deduction will be used in the SNAP calculation (Step Two: for federally-eligible members only).

• There will be no proration of the shelter deduction. The shelter deduction will be used in the SNAP calculation (Step Two) if there is a SNAP-eligible member with income and the household has shelter/utility expenses.

• The homeless deduction will be used in the SNAP calculation (Step Two).

• The earned income deduction follows the person with earnings.

• The dependent care deduction follows the adult with earnings.

• The child support payment deduction belongs to the adult who has the support obligation.

• The medical expense deduction belongs to the person(s) with medical expenses.

How the State SNAP Supplement Amount is Determined in a Mixed Noncitizen Household (Back to Index)
When State SNAP Supplement is paid to a combination SNAP household, BEACON will use the Combination Calculation for Mixed Noncitizen Households (including members eligible for federal SNAP and the State SNAP Supplement), outlined in the subtopic above.
When Step One is paid, there is no supplement owed for the State SNAP Supplement, as this is the universal calculation including the income and deduction of all household members.

When Step Two is paid, the State SNAP Supplement will be the difference between the Step One Calculation and the Step Two Calculation (i.e., subtracting Step Two from Step One).

Examples of Mixed Noncitizen Households

Example 1: Ana (she/her) is a grantee of a SNAP household. Ana is ineligible for federal SNAP benefits as she has been paroled for a period of one year, but she has resided in the US less than 5 years. Her two children, 13-year-old Alex (he/him) and 15-year-old Austin (he/him) are eligible for federal SNAP as they have each been paroled for a period of one year and they are under 18 years of age.

Ana grosses $700 monthly in wages; Alex receives $944 monthly in SSI; Ana pays $78 monthly in rent; and pays for heating costs for Full SUA credit.

Step One Calculation (Universal Calculation):
- HH of 3;
- $700 Ana’s monthly wages;
- $944 Alex’s monthly SSI;
- $78 monthly in rent; and
- Full SUA.

Under Step One, using all income and expenses, the household is eligible for $457 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

Step Two Calculation (Federally Eligible Calculation):
- HH of 2;
- $944 Alex’s monthly SSI;
- $78 monthly in rent; and
- Full SUA.

Under Step Two, observing the rules of the Treatment of Income Under the Combination Calculation for Mixed Noncitizen Household (outlined in the subtopic above), the household would qualify for $478 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

Step Three (Comparison):
Seeing that the Step Two benefit amount of $478 exceeds the Step One benefit amount of $457, the Department will pay the Step One amount of $457 as the federal SNAP benefit.

State SNAP Supplement:
In this scenario, there is no State SNAP Supplement owed to the client, because the Step One calculation was paid, which includes the income and deduction of all household members.

Example 2: Jose (he/him) is a grantee of a SNAP household. He and his spouse, Helena (she/her), are ineligible for federal SNAP benefits as they have been paroled for a period
of one year, but they have resided in the US less than 5 years. Their 2-year-old Amanda (she/her) is eligible for federal SNAP as she is a US Citizen.

Jose grosses $3,000 monthly in wages; Helena and Amanda have no income; he pays $1,000 monthly in rent; and pays for heating costs for Full SUA credit.

**Step One Calculation (Universal Calculation):**
- HH of 3;
- $3,000 Jose’s monthly wages;
- $1,000 monthly in rent; and
- Full SUA.

Under Step One, using all income and expenses the household is eligible for $307 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

**Step Two Calculation (Federally Eligible Calculation):**
- HH of 1;
- No income; and
- No expenses.

Under Step Two, observing the rules of the [Treatment of Income Under the Combination Calculation for Mixed Noncitizen Household](#) (outlined in the subtopic above), the household would qualify for $291 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

**Step Three (Comparison):**
Seeing that the Step Two benefit amount of $291 is less than the Step One benefit amount of $307, the Department will pay the Step Two amount of $291 as the federal SNAP benefit.

**State SNAP Supplement:**
Since Step Two was paid for federal SNAP, the State SNAP Supplement will be the difference between Step One and Step Two of $16 ($307 - $291 = $16).

**Example 3:** Matilde (she/her) is a grantee of a SNAP and TAFDC household. Matilde is ineligible for federal SNAP and TAFDC benefits as she has Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and is considered a PRUCOL for noncitizen purposes. Her two children, 2-year-old Peter (he/him) and 5-year-old Kenneth (he/him) are eligible for federal SNAP and TAFDC as they are US Citizens.

Kenneth receives $944 monthly in SSI; Matilde receives $513 in TAFDC for Peter; she pays $58 monthly in rent; and pays for heating costs for Full SUA credit.

**Step One Calculation (Universal Calculation):**
- HH of 3;
- $944 Kenneth’s monthly SSI;
- $513 monthly TAFDC;
- $58 monthly in rent; and
- Full SUA.
Under Step One, using all income and expenses the household is eligible for $472 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

**Step Two Calculation (Federally Eligible Calculation):**
- HH of 2;
- $944 Kenneth’s monthly SSI;
- $58 monthly in rent; and
- Full SUA.

Under Step Two, observing the rules of the Treatment of Income Under the Combination Calculation for Mixed Noncitizen Household (outlined in the subtopic above), the TAFDC grant shifts to the ineligible noncitizen for the purposes this calculation. For this calculation, the household is eligible for $472 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

**Step Three (Comparison):**
Seeing that the Step Two benefit amount of $472 is equal to the Step One benefit amount of $472, the Department will pay the Step One amount as the federal SNAP benefit.

**State SNAP Supplement:**
In this scenario, there is no State SNAP Supplement owed to the client, because the Step One calculation was paid, which includes the income and deduction of all household members.

**How the State SNAP Supplement Amount is Determined in a Solely State Eligible Household** ([Back to Index](#))

Households that contain solely State SNAP Supplement eligible members will have their benefits calculated using the regular SNAP calculation. This means the State SNAP Supplement calculation will include all household members, all income, and all deductions to determine the State SNAP Supplement the household would be entitled to receive.

**Example of Solely State SNAP Eligible Households**
**Example:** Clarence (he/him) applies for SNAP for himself, his spouse Amelia (she/her) and their 2 children Jonathan (he/him) and Cristina (she/her). They recently arrived in the United States from Columbia.

They all have pending applications for Asylum and are considered PRUCOLs for noncitizen purposes. They currently have no income and no expenses.

**Calculation (Regular SNAP Calculation):**
- HH of 4;
- No income; and
- No expenses.

Applying the regular SNAP benefit calculation, which uses all income and expenses, the household will be denied for federal SNAP benefits. The household is eligible for $973 monthly in State-funded SNAP, as their INS Designation is PRUCOL and they have no income, so they are receiving the maximum benefit amount for their household size.
**How the State SNAP Supplement Amount is Determined for Mixed Noncitizen Households in which No One is Eligible for Federal SNAP and at least One or More Member(s) is Eligible for the State SNAP Supplement** (Back to Index)

There are households comprised of legal noncitizens ineligible for federal SNAP and legal noncitizens eligible for the State SNAP Supplement only. This household includes no federally eligible member(s); at least one member eligible to receive the State SNAP Supplement (e.g., PRUCOLs). These households will also follow the Combination Calculation for Mixed Noncitizen Household rules. For these households, BEACON will compare the results from the two calculations and issue the household the lower benefit amount as the State SNAP Supplement.

Step One Calculation (Calculation as though everyone was eligible for State): Calculate State SNAP benefits using all household members, all household members’ income, and full deductions to determine the maximum State SNAP Supplement the household would be entitled to if all members were eligible for the State SNAP Supplement.

Step Two (State Eligible Only): Calculate State SNAP Supplements for state eligible SNAP members, excluding the income and deductions of legal noncitizens ineligible for the State SNAP Supplement (i.e., LPR < 5 years).

Step Three (Comparison): Compare the results from Step One and Step Two.

- If the Step Two amount exceeds or is equal to the Step One amount, the Department will pay the Step One amount as the State SNAP Supplement.
- If the Step Two amount is less than the Step One amount, the Department will pay the Step Two amount as the State SNAP Supplement.

**Example of Households in which No One is Eligible for Federal SNAP and at least One or More Member(s) is Eligible for the State SNAP Supplement**

**Example:** Maria (she/her) is a grantee of a SNAP household. Maria is ineligible for Federal and State SNAP benefits because she is an LPR over the age of 18 and she has resided in the US less than 5 years. Her spouse, Manny (he/him) is ineligible for federal SNAP but is eligible for State SNAP because he has been paroled for a period of one year, but he has resided in the US less than 5 years.

Maria grosses $2,700 monthly in wages; Manny has no income; she pays $500 monthly in rent; and pays for heating costs for Full SUA credit.

**Step One Calculation (Calculation as though everyone was eligible for State):**
- HH of 2;
- $2,700 Maria’s monthly wages;
- $500 monthly in rent; and
- Full SUA.

Under Step One, using all income and expenses the household is eligible for $57 monthly in the State SNAP Supplement.

**Step Two Calculation (State Eligible Calculation):**
- HH of 1;
• No income; and
• No expenses.

Under Step Two, observing the rules of the Treatment of Income Under the Combination Calculation for Mixed Noncitizen Household (outlined in the subtopic above), the household would qualify for $291 monthly in the State SNAP Supplement.

**Step Three (Comparison):**
Seeing that the Step Two benefit amount of $291 exceeds the Step One benefit amount of $57, the Department will pay the Step One amount of $57 as the State SNAP Supplement.

Noncitizen Policy and Procedures

Last Update: February 7, 2024
Overview

A noncitizen Permanently Residing in the U.S. Under Color of Law is referred to as PRUCOL. A noncitizen is considered PRUCOL when the individual is known to the United State Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and there is no evidence that the USCIS is engaged in deportation proceedings against the noncitizen.

Note

PRUCOL is not an immigration status granted by the Department of Homeland Security and therefore will not appear as such on immigration documentation.

PRUCOLs are ineligible to receive federal SNAP benefits; however, PRUCOLs are eligible to receive State SNAP Supplements (if otherwise eligible). Please refer to State SNAP Supplement for more information.

Eligibility Requirements

PRUCOL includes but is not limited to noncitizens who:

- are employment authorized
- have a pending application for asylum or other relevant petition pending (this does not apply to noncitizens with a Cuban/Haitian Entrant status)
- have an approved or pending application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- have a suspension or stay of deportation removal
- are a noncitizen paroled into the U.S. under section 212(d)(5) for less than one year
- are granted voluntary departure
- are living under orders of supervision
- have filed an application, petition, or request to obtain a lawfully present status that has been accepted as properly filed, but who have not yet obtained employment authorization
- have a U-Visa (Victim of Violence)
- are a Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ)
- are granted or have a pending application for deferred action status; or
- have an approved or pending petition for status of relief.

Since not all PRUCOL’s have been given an immigration status, immigration applications and pending statuses may not reflect in the SAVE system. When this occurs, clients must present the most current immigration documentation or other authoritative document for verification.

Last Update: February 7, 2024
Calculation Rules and Treatment of Income for Mixed Households

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Combination Calculation for Mixed Noncitizen Households

Treatment of Income Under the Combination Calculation for Mixed Household

Examples

Overview (Back to Index)

Households containing both eligible members and legal noncitizens ineligible for federal SNAP benefits are referred to as mixed noncitizen households and have special calculation rules. For these households BEACON will complete a combination calculation following the procedures outlined at 106 CMR 364.600(C). In the final step of this calculation, BEACON will compare the results from the two calculations and issue the household the lower benefit amount.

Combination Calculation for Mixed Noncitizen Households (Back to Index)

Step One (Universal Calculation): Calculate SNAP benefits using all household members, all household members' income, and full deductions to determine the maximum SNAP benefits the household would be entitled to if all members were SNAP-eligible.

Step Two (Federally Eligible Only): Calculate SNAP benefits for federally eligible SNAP members, excluding the income and deductions of legal noncitizens ineligible for SNAP benefits.

Step Three (Comparison): Compare the results from Step One and Step Two.

- If the Step Two amount exceeds or is equal to the Step One amount, the Department will pay the Step One amount as the SNAP benefit.
- If the Step Two amount is less than the Step One amount, the Department will pay the Step Two amount as the SNAP benefit.

Treatment of Income Under the Combination Calculation for Mixed Household (Back to Index)

In the combination calculation for mixed noncitizen households, income is sometimes attributed differently than in a standard SNAP calculation. This means income is sometimes shifted to maximize the SNAP benefit amount to the eligible household. Please refer to Example 3 below, outlined under Examples.
The following are rules for attributing income under the combination SNAP calculation outlined above and in accordance with 106 CMR 364.600(C):

**Cash Assistance Grants**
- Cash assistance grants will not be prorated.
- In a SNAP case that includes one adult and one or more dependents, the cash assistance grant belongs to the adult.
- In a SNAP case that includes two adults and one or more dependents, where one adult is SNAP-eligible and the other is a noncitizen ineligible for Federal SNAP Benefits, the cash assistance grant belongs to the noncitizen ineligible for federal SNAP Benefits.
- In a SNAP case that includes one adult who is an ineligible cash grantee and one or more dependents, the cash assistance grant belongs to the ineligible grantee.
- In a SNAP case that includes an ineligible cash-grantee and one or more other persons who are adults, the cash assistance grant belongs to one of the adults who is a noncitizen ineligible for federal SNAP Benefits.
- In a SNAP case that includes a sanctioned cash-grantee and one or more dependents, the cash assistance grant belongs to the sanctioned grantee.
- In a SNAP case that includes a sanctioned cash-grantee and one or more other persons who are adults, the cash assistance grant belongs to one of the adults who is noncitizens who are ineligible for federal SNAP benefits.

**Earned Income**
Earned income belongs to the person who earns the income.

**Unearned Income**
Unearned income such as veterans’ benefits, private pensions, Social Security, RSDI or SSI belongs to the person who receives it.

**Deductible Expenses**
The following are rules for attributing deductible expenses under the combination SNAP calculation:
- All applicable deductions will be used in Step One of the combination calculation (which includes all household members, those federally-eligible and those not eligible).
- The standard deduction will be used in the SNAP calculation (Step Two: for federally-eligible members only).
- There will be no proration of the shelter deduction. The shelter deduction will be used in the SNAP calculation (Step Two) if there is a SNAP-eligible member with income and the household has shelter/utility expenses.
- The homeless deduction will be used in the SNAP calculation (Step Two).
- The earned income deduction follows the person with earnings.
- The dependent care deduction follows the adult with earnings.
- The child support payment deduction belongs to the adult who has the support obligation.
• The medical expense deduction belongs to the person(s) with medical expenses.

Examples (Back to Index)

Example 1: Ana (she/her) is a grantee of a SNAP household. Ana is ineligible for federal SNAP benefits as she has been paroled for a period of one year, but she has resided in the US less than 5 years. Her two children, 13-year-old Alex (he/him) and 15-year-old Austin (he/him) are eligible for federal SNAP as they have each been paroled for a period of one year and they are under 18 years of age.

Ana grosses $700 monthly in wages; Alex receives $944 monthly in SSI; Ana pays $78 monthly in rent; and pays for heating costs for Full SUA credit.

Step One Calculation (Universal Calculation):
• HH of 3;
• $700 Ana’s monthly wages;
• $944 Alex’s monthly SSI;
• $78 monthly in rent; and
• Full SUA.

Under Step One, using all income and expenses, the household is eligible for $457 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

Step Two Calculation (Federally Eligible Calculation):
• HH of 2;
• $944 Alex’s monthly SSI;
• $78 monthly in rent; and
• Full SUA.

Under Step Two, observing the rules of Attribution of Income Under the Combination Household Calculation Rules (outlined in the subtopic above), the household would qualify for $478 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

Step Three (Comparison):
Seeing that the Step Two benefit amount of $478 exceeds the Step One benefit amount of $457, the Department will pay the Step One amount of $457 as the federal SNAP benefit.

Example 2: Jose (he/him) is a grantee of a SNAP household. He and his spouse, Helena (she/her), are ineligible for federal SNAP benefits as they have been paroled for a period of one year, but they have resided in the US less than 5 years. Their 2-year-old Amanda (she/her) is eligible for federal SNAP as she is a US Citizen.

Jose grosses $3,000 monthly in wages; Helena and Amanda have no income; he pays $1,000 monthly in rent; and pays for heating costs for Full SUA credit.

Step One Calculation (Universal Calculation):
• HH of 3;
• $3,000 Jose’s monthly wages;
• $1,000 monthly in rent; and
• Full SUA.

Under Step One, using all income and expenses the household is eligible for $307 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

**Step Two Calculation (Federally Eligible Calculation):**
- HH of 1;
- No income; and
- No expenses.

Under Step Two, observing the rules of Attribution of Income Under the Combination Household Calculation Rules (outlined in the subtopic above), the household would qualify for $291 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

**Step Three (Comparison):**
Seeing that the Step Two benefit amount of $291 is less than the Step One benefit amount of $307, the Department will pay the Step Two amount of $291 as the federal SNAP benefit.

**Example 3:** Matilde (she/her) is a grantee of a SNAP and TAFDC household. Matilde is ineligible for federal SNAP and TAFDC benefits as she has Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and is considered a PRUCOL for noncitizen purposes. Her two children, 2-year-old Peter (he/him) and 5-year-old Kenneth (he/him) are eligible for federal SNAP and TAFDC as they are US Citizens.

Kenneth receives $944 monthly in SSI; Matilde receives $513 in TAFDC for Peter; she pays $58 monthly in rent; and pays for heating costs for Full SUA credit.

**Step One Calculation (Universal Calculation):**
- HH of 3;
- $944 Kenneth’s monthly SSI;
- $513 monthly TAFDC;
- $58 monthly in rent; and
- Full SUA.

Under Step One, using all income and expenses the household is eligible for $472 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

**Step Two Calculation (Federally Eligible Calculation):**
- HH of 2;
- $944 Kenneth’s monthly SSI;
- $58 monthly in rent; and
- Full SUA.

Under Step Two, observing the rules of Attribution of Income Under the Combination Household Calculation Rules (outlined in the subtopic above), the TAFDC grant shifts to
the ineligible noncitizen for the purposes this calculation. For this calculation, the household is eligible for $472 monthly in federal SNAP benefits.

**Step Three (Comparison):**
Seeing that the Step Two benefit amount of $472 is equal to the Step One benefit amount of $472, the Department will pay the Step One amount as the federal SNAP benefit.

[Noncitizen Policy and Procedures]

**Last Update: February 7, 2024**
Entering INS Designation - SNAP

Overview

The INS Designation page collects noncitizen information for a client. This page is used to capture information regarding the client’s United States Citizens and Immigration Services (USCIS) Designation. Legal Permanent Resident and other noncitizen information will be collected on the Legal Permanent Resident and Noncitizen pages, which are available after this page.

All lawful noncitizens enter the U.S. under a particular section of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and are given documentation regarding their status, their date of U.S. entry, and an Alien Registration Number (A number).

Note: If a client is currently a citizen, but previously was a noncitizen and there is data in this section, this section will be available.

To enter a client’s INS Designation, you must:

1. access the INS Designation page in the Assessed Person Nonfinancials section of the workflow
2. select the INS designation from the drop-down list
   - Asylee
   - Battered Noncitizen/VAWA
   - Conditional Entrant
   - Cuban/Haitian Entrant
   - Deportation Withheld Noncit.
   - Deportation Order Shown
   - Hmong
   - Highland Laotian
   - Legal Permanent Resident
   - Naturalized Citizen
   - Noncitizen Veteran
   - Nonimmigrant
   - Parolee
   - PRUCOL
   - Refugee
   - Undetermined
   - Victim of Trafficking
   - Vietnamese Amerasian
   - Special Humanitarian Parole
3. enter the Alien Registration No., if applicable. (If the leading character is an A you must drop the A and substitute a zero as the leading character)
4. select the current INS designation Status from the drop-down list
   - Active
   - Closed
   - Denied
   - Pending
5. enter the Start date of the USCIS status
6. enter the Expiration date, if applicable (i.e., an expiration date must be entered for Parolees, but is not required for LPRs)
7. enter the Initial date of entry into the U.S
8. indicate if the client is eligible for SNAP by selecting Legal FS disqualified Yes/No. See details in the Legal FS Disqualified Indicator subsection below
9. enter the Section reference information, from the provided drop-down list if applicable
10. if Other is selected for Section reference, enter the Other section reference
11. click Save to save the record to the select list
12. click Next to save your entries or changes and go to the next page in the workflow, or
13. click Finish to save your entries or changes and to exit the page and the workflow.

Legal FS Disqualified Indicator

The Legal FS disqualified indicator determines what income and expenses are used in the SNAP benefit calculation for households that contain eligible SNAP members and legal noncitizens ineligible for federal SNAP benefits.

When completing the Legal FS disqualified indicator, the system asks the question:
“Is this person a legal noncitizen who is ineligible to participate in the Federal SNAP program?”

For simplicity, the question has been separated into two parts:
1. Is this person a legal noncitizen?
2. Is this person ineligible to participate in the Federal SNAP program?

- If the answer to either question is “no”, then you must code the Legal FS disqualified indicator as “No”.
- If the answer to one of the questions is “no”, then you must code the Legal FS disqualified indicator as “No”.
- If the answer to both questions is “yes”, then you must code the Legal FS disqualified indicator as “Yes”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INS designation</th>
<th>Is this person a legal noncitizen?</th>
<th>Is this person ineligible to participate in the Federal SNAP program?</th>
<th>How to code the Legal FS disqualified indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asylee (Active Status), Cuban/Haitian Entrant, Refugee, Deportation Withheld Noncit., Hmong, Highland</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laotian, Victim of Trafficking, Vietnamese Amerasian, and Special Humanitarian Parolee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deportation Order Shown</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonimmigrant (Diplomats, Students, Visitors)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Permanent Resident residing in the US greater than or equal to 5 years</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Permanent Resident (18 yrs and over) and has resided in the US less than 5 years</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Permanent Resident (children under 18 yrs), regardless of number of years residing in the US</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parolee with parole period of at least one year and has resided in the US greater than or equal to 5 years</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parolee (18 yrs and over) with parole period of at least one year and has resided in the US less than 5 years</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parolee (children under 18 yrs) with parole period of at least one year, regardless of number of years residing in the US</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battered Noncitizen/VAWA residing in the US greater than or equal to 5 years</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battered Noncitizen/VAWA (18 yrs and over) and has resided in the US less than 5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battered Noncitizen/VAWA (children under 18 yrs) regardless of number of years residing in the US</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A “Yes” code would not apply to nonimmigrants and undetermined noncitizens.*

This would be determined by the noncitizen’s immigration status and whether they meet other conditions.
Note

Conditional Entrants (this status has not been issued by USCIS since 1980) follow Legal Permanent Resident coding rules.

Noncitizen Veterans (this is not a USCIS immigration status, but LPRs can waive the 5-year bar if they meet certain conditions as veterans. This should be coded as Legal Permanent Resident, as this condition of eligibility) INS designations follow Legal Permanent Resident coding rules.

*Battered Noncitizens must meet other conditions. Please see Battered Noncitizens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRUCOL [Employment Authorized, Pending Asylum, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Paroled for a period of less than one year, etc.]</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturalized Citizen</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changing INS Designation Data
Noncitizen Policy and Procedures

Last Update: February 7, 2024