



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	22 TA/DC080 Upstate and New York City
Date:	August 16, 2022
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, HEAP Coordinators, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Fair Hearing Officers, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Elimination of the 45-Day Waiting Period for Safety Net Assistance Applications
Effective Date:	October 1, 2022
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Section 2

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to inform social services districts (districts) that the 45-day waiting period for Safety Net Assistance (SNA) applications will be eliminated. Starting October 1, 2022, the rules for SNA eligibility determinations will be the same as Family Assistance (FA). There will no longer be a 45-day waiting period for SNA applicants to receive Public Assistance (PA) benefits.

Due to a PA policy change included in the enacted 2022-2023 New York State Budget, districts will be required to determine eligibility for all SNA applications within 30 days from the date of application. Starting October 1, 2022, the PA date of eligibility will be the date when the applicant provides the required documentation and complies with all PA program requirements. The budgeting of the initial grant begins on the date of eligibility as determined above.

The requirement to determine eligibility for all SNA applicants within 30 days from the date of application and the elimination of the 45-day waiting period applies to all SNA cases including individuals in receipt of SNA who have complied with the terms of a sanction and attempting to reestablish eligibility, and incarcerated individuals applying for services prior to release.

As a district option, individuals who are incarcerated can apply for PA prior to their release. Benefits can be issued immediately upon release provided all eligibility requirements have been met and the individual has been determined otherwise eligible. Districts are reminded that while awaiting an individual's release from incarceration, applications cannot be held longer than 30 days.

For SNA applications filed August 17, 2022, through September 1, 2022, districts must make an eligibility determination on these applications, no later than October 1, 2022. For SNA applications filed on or after September 2, 2022, districts must make an eligibility determination within 30 days from the date of application. For SNA applications approved prior to October 1, 2022, benefits must not be issued prior to the 45th day or until October 1, 2022, whichever is earlier.

SNA cost shares for districts will remain consistent with the percentages established as part of the enacted New York State Budget, which are 29% State funds and 71% local funds.

Additional guidance and system implications will be provided in a forthcoming Administrative Directive Memorandum (ADM).