



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	20 TA/DC032 Upstate and New York City
Date:	April 20, 2020
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, Employment Coordinators, Temporary Assistance (TA) Directors, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Directors
From:	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Use of SNAP Employment and Training Funds to Purchase Laptops Necessary for Remote Learning
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Employment and Advancement Services Bureau 518-486-6106 or otda.sm.eisp.eas@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) of recent guidance issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) regarding the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) funds to purchase laptops and peripheral equipment necessary for remote learning for E&T participants if colleges or other E&T providers suspend in-person classes and move to on-line services in response to the pandemic caused by COVID-19.

Districts were informed in [20-LCM-01](#) that SNAP E&T funds and the non-federal funds used to meet the non-federal share of SNAP E&T costs cannot be used to purchase computers or provide internet connections for SNAP E&T participants. USDA FNS has issued recent clarification that States may use SNAP E&T funds (50 percent federal reimbursement funds or 100 percent funding) to purchase laptops or other computer equipment that may be loaned to E&T participants. Additionally, SNAP E&T funds may be used to provide for the costs associated with internet connections for SNAP E&T participants engaged in remote learning.

Laptops or other computer equipment purchased with SNAP E&T funds may only be loaned to E&T participants and upon completion of the remote learning program, all loaned equipment must be returned to the district or the E&T provider who loaned the laptop and/or equipment. In addition, districts must follow federal cost principles regarding disposition of equipment.