



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	25DC002 Upstate and New York City
Date:	January 09, 2025
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	SNAP Directors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Guidance on Providing Confirmation of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation for Household Members of Social Security Administration (SSA) Recipients
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	SNAP Policy Bureau at 518-473-1469 or SNAPBureau@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	25DC002 – Attachment 1- How to Document Receipt of PA or SNAP

Section 2

Background

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) of a recent change to SSA policy regarding public assistance households, and how districts may respond to requests for confirmation of SNAP enrollment for members of a SSA recipient household.

Until recently, a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient was required to live in a “public assistance household” in order to qualify for increased SSI benefits. This required **all** household members with whom the SSI recipient lives receive a means-tested public income-maintenance (PIM) program benefit which included receipt of Public Assistance (PA).

A recent [rule change](#) from the SSA includes SNAP as one of the programs that permits a household to be considered a “public assistance household”. Additionally, instead of requiring all household members receive a PIM program benefit, the rule change now only requires **at least one** other household member receive a benefit. As a result, districts may receive

inquiries from SSA to confirm SNAP enrollment for a member of a household of a SSI recipient, in order to qualify that SSI individual for a higher SSI benefit.

Program Implications

Federal regulations permit the sharing of SNAP data in limited circumstances ([7 CFR 272.1\(c\)](#)). Specifically, SNAP data may only be shared for the purposes of determining **that** individuals' eligibility for a federally funded means-tested program. SNAP data may not be shared as verification to support the determination of **someone else's** eligibility for another program or service, or any other purpose. Therefore, districts are not permitted to share SNAP information to verify that an SSI recipient lives in a household with a SNAP recipient.

Required Action

A SNAP recipient living in the same household as an SSI recipient may obtain documentation to provide proof of their SNAP participation from their account in [myBenefits](#) or [ACCESS HRA](#) or by requesting a document from their local district that confirms their SNAP enrollment. The attached "How to Document Receipt of PA or SNAP" document provides instructions to explain how an individual may find this information in [myBenefits](#) or [Access HRA](#). SNAP recipients may then provide that information themselves to SSA to confirm the "public assistance household" status for the SSI recipient.

Please contact your SNAP liaison with any further questions.