



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	25DC071 Upstate and New York City
Date:	October 28, 2025
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, SNAP Directors, TA Directors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Temporary Assistance and SNAP Program Policies Regarding Federal Government Employees Affected by the Federal Government Shutdown
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	SNAP Policy Bureau at 518-473-1469 or SNAPBureau@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	None

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) about Public Assistance (PA) program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) policies regarding the treatment of the federal government employees who are furloughed and will not be receiving paychecks because of the government shutdown that began at midnight of October 1, 2025.

Background

On March 15, 2025, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 ([P.L. 119-4](#)) was signed into law, funding the federal government through September 30, 2025. However, no new funding legislation was passed and signed into law by midnight on October 1, 2025 authorizing continued spending, effectively shutting down the federal government.

According to the United States Office of Personnel Management, “Guidance for Shutdown Furloughs (September 28, 2025) and Special Instructions for Agencies Affected by a Possible Lapse in Appropriations Starting on October 1, 2025” (September 28, 2025), employees are either: 1) exempted, 2) excepted, or 3) furloughed

- 1) Exempted: still working and still being paid. Employees are “exempt” from furlough if they are not affected by a lapse in appropriations. This includes employees whose functions are not funded by annually appropriated funds. Employees performing those functions will generally continue to be governed by the normal pay, leave, and other civil service rules.
- 2) Excepted: still working, but not currently being paid. The term “excepted” is used to refer to employees who are funded through annual appropriations who are nonetheless excepted from the furlough because they are performing work that, by law, may continue to be performed during a lapse in appropriations. Excepted employees include employees who are performing emergency work involving the safety of human life or the protection of property or performing certain other types of excepted work.
- 3) Furloughed: not working and not currently being paid. Employees who are funded through annual appropriations but are not designated as excepted are barred from working during a shutdown, except to perform minimal activities as necessary to execute an orderly suspension of agency operations related to non-excepted activities. These employees will be “furloughed.”

Program Implications

PA:

There may be federal employees that apply for ongoing PA and emergency assistance such as, Emergency Assistance to Families (EAF), Emergency Assistance for Adults (EAA), Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA) and SNAP. Excepted and furloughed federal employees have the right to apply for PA and receive benefits in accordance with established PA rules and regulations.

PA Emergency Programs and the Utilization of Income and Resources:

Only available income and immediately accessible resources are counted in determining eligibility for emergency assistance. If federal government employees are not currently receiving a paycheck due to the partial government shutdown, then that income would not be considered available.

PA emergency programs are intended to be used to meet the emergency or immediate needs of households that do not have available income or resources to reduce or meet their need for such assistance. Excepted or furloughed federal government employees, like other PA applicants or recipients, must use all of their available income and resources to reduce or meet their emergency and immediate needs.

Pursuant to [02 ADM-02](#), income and resources that are credibly earmarked to meet specific basic essential items or needs, food, or other items of need identified in 18

NYCRR 352 must be considered unavailable to meet the emergency need. For example, if the applicant states that their next paycheck or bank funds are going to be used to pay an imminent mortgage payment, the district must consider the income or resource as earmarked and unavailable to meet the current emergency.

The following income guidelines must be met before deducting resources:

Financial eligibility for EAF is determined by the gross (total) income immediately available to the household on the date of application. The household is financially eligible for EAF if the available income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level Guidelines for the household size.

Financial eligibility for ESNA is determined by the gross income of the applying household. The household's gross income at the time of application must not exceed 125% of the Federal Poverty Level Guidelines for the household size.

SNAP:

All federal employees, including those who are exempt from being furloughed, have the right to apply for SNAP and receive benefits consistent with federal SNAP requirements.

When determining a household's eligibility, if household income in the next certification period will differ from income in the previous 30 days, the anticipated income will be used to determine eligibility. Income cannot be counted if the amount or date of receipt is uncertain, and individuals who are not being paid during a federal shutdown because they are furloughed or excepted may be uncertain as to when the shutdown will end, and they will resume being paid. Therefore, income lost in response to the federal shutdown should be disregarded when determining eligibility and benefit levels. Households shall be advised to report all changes in gross monthly income as required by 7 CFR 273.12.

Districts may request, but not require, documentation to support the assertion that the employee is not being paid because they are excepted or furloughed due to the federal shutdown. If the household is unable to obtain documentation, the district must accept their attestation and may not delay processing. Additionally, any retroactive pay received as a lump sum once wages resume shall be counted as resources in the month received, in accordance with 7 CFR 273.8(c).

Employment Requirements:

As part of the eligibility process, districts are required to screen all household members for exemptions from the general SNAP work requirements and from the ABAWD time limit in order to correctly determine the employability status and to document the ABAWD status for each individual applying for or receiving SNAP benefits, including those who are concurrently applying for or receiving PA. Eligibility staff must screen for exemptions at certification, recertification, and when changes in the household's circumstances are reported, if appropriate.

- For furloughed federal employees who do not qualify for an exemption from the general SNAP work rules and the ABAWD time limit, ABAWD work rules apply. For Excepted employees (those furloughed employees working without pay): Even though the

individual may not be receiving a paycheck during the furlough, the district must consider the number of hours the individual is working when evaluating their SNAP employability status. If the individual is furloughed but working 30 or more hours per week, they are exempt from the general SNAP work rules and the ABAWD time limit. If the individual works less than 30 hours per week (120 hours per month), the district should assign the appropriate non-exempt SNAP employability code and ABAWD status code and apply the existing SNAP work rules and ABAWD time limit rules.

- Furloughed employees may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB). See <https://dol.ny.gov/information-workers-impacted-federal-shutdown>