

# COMBINED FEDERAL AND STATE FOOD STAMPS PROGRAMS

## Eligibility Appendix

June 14, 2007

This appendix summarizes the eligibility rules programmed to estimate eligibility for the Food Stamps program in DC, IA, IL, MA, MN, NC, NY, OH, TX and WA in 2006. Since Food Stamps is a federal program, this appendix includes all federal rules and state exemptions that can be coded onto the survey data.

### Citizenship

Applicants must be citizens or qualified non-citizens. Qualified non-citizens include legal permanent residents who have been such since entry or for the five previous years. In states other than North Carolina, there is no citizenship requirement for

- (1) children under age 18
- (2) Armed Forces veterans and their spouses
- (3) those who, in 1996, were 65 and older and lawful residents of the US
- (4) disabled persons.

### Work Requirements

No requirement for initial eligibility. Non-employed recipients must participate in Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) activities, except if the recipient is

- (1) receiving TANF, Refugee Cash Assistance, or General Assistance, in states where it is available;
- (2) under age 16, 16-17 and in school or not head of a household or in a training program at least half-time, or age 60 or older
- (3) ill, injured, or incapacitated and certified unable to work;
- (4) required in the home to care for a child under 6 or someone disabled
- (5) receiving or has applied for unemployment compensation
- (6) student enrolled at least half-time

### Budget Group Composition

Parents and children, spouses, and the entire economic unit must be included in the eligibility group; the programmed rules assume the budget group begins at the household level. Applicants disqualified for work or immigration requirements do not contribute to the size of the budget group; however, a pro-rated share of their income and a full share of their assets count towards the budget group.

### Asset Limits

Except for households where all members are receiving TANF or SSI, all households must meet the following asset limits:

- (1) Households with at least one member who is age 60 or older or disabled may not have countable assets totaling more than \$3,000
- (2) All remaining households may not have countable assets totaling more than \$2,000.

Massachusetts does not have asset limits for:

- (1) Households with children under age 19
- (2) Households consisting solely of a pregnant woman

**Assets countable toward asset limit:** cash; bank deposits (savings and checking accounts); stocks, bonds, and other securities; IRAs and Keogh plans; one-time lump sum payments; property

other than home or business.

**Assets NOT countable toward asset limit:** home; up to \$4,650 of vehicles; personal belongings; life insurance; pension plans other than IRAs and Keoghs (e.g., 401K); income-producing property.

**Exceptions:** Texas has an asset limit of \$5,000 for both household types. In Texas the primary vehicle is exempt up to \$15,000 (other vehicles exempt up to \$4,650). North Carolina excepts all vehicles of less than \$1,500, and one vehicle for each budget group member ages 18 and older.

### **Income Limits**

Most budget groups must pass two income tests: a *gross income test* and *net income test*. Gross income must be less than 130% of FPL for the budget group size, and net income must be less than 100% of FPL. Budget groups containing an elderly or disabled person do not have to pass the gross income test. Budget groups where all members are receiving TANF or SSI do not have to pass either income test.

**Exceptions:** For families with children under 19, the gross income limit is 200% FPL in Massachusetts. For TANF households IN TEXAS, the gross income limit is 165% FPL, and there is no net income test. In Washington, people age 60 and over and permanently disabled have a gross income limit of 165% FPL.

**Income countable toward income limit:** wages and salaries; self-employment income; SSI, TANF; Social Security, pensions, annuities, and retirement benefits; unemployment, workers' compensation; veterans' benefits; disability payments; trust fund withdrawals and dividends; foster care payments; rental income; strike benefits; severance (and EAEDC in Massachusetts).

**Income NOT countable toward income limit:** under age 18 student income; assets listed above; housing subsidies, child care vouchers, irregular income up to \$30 every 3 months; educational assistance; assistance from private charities (up to \$300 every 3 months); fuel assistance; disaster relief; Medicare drug benefits; EITC; child support payments.

### **Gross and Net Income Calculations**

To calculate gross monthly income, add together countable income. To calculate net income, subtract the following deductions from the total countable gross income.

- (1) standard deduction based on budget group size
  - \$134 – 1 to 4 members
  - \$157 – 5 members
  - \$179 – 6 members
- (2) 20% earned income deduction
- (3) medical expense deduction of expenses over \$35 on elderly or disabled budget group members
- (4) dependent care deduction (if necessary for work/training/education) of these expenses up to \$200/month for each under age 2 child, and \$175/month for all others (including elderly/disabled).
- (5) shelter costs deduction, up to \$417
- (6) standard utility (\$245) and telephone allowance (\$21) deductions (in North Carolina, the standard utility allowance is \$266-\$350, depending on household size)
- (7) child support payments

# IOWA CHILD CARE PROGRAM

## Eligibility Appendix

May 24, 2007

This appendix summarizes the eligibility rules programmed to estimate eligibility for child care programs funded through the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) in Iowa. It includes all federal and state child care rules from 2006 that can be coded onto the survey data.

### **General Demographic Requirements**

Child care support is available for families with children ages 13 or younger or under the age of 19 if the child has special needs.

### **Categorical Eligibility**

If a family receives FIP/TANF, they are automatically eligible for child care assistance.

### **Citizenship**

There are no citizenship requirements for child care assistance in Iowa.

### **Budget Group Composition**

The budget group consists of the nuclear family (also called subfamily). Applicants disqualified for immigration requirements do not contribute to the size of the budget group; however, their income counts towards the budget group.

### **Work Requirements**

Adult family members must be employed 28 hours a week or more or in job training or education (in school full time).

### **Asset Limits**

There is no asset limit.

### **Income Limits**

Income limits are set at the county level, and are based on the federal poverty level. Iowa uses a gross monthly income below 145% of FPL or 200% of FPL if they have a child with a special need. The state updates its income cutoff for the current FPL every July 1<sup>st</sup>. There are many income components not in the microdata that are to be excluded from the income calculation. Income in the eligibility program is calculated by summing only the countable income listed below.

**Income countable toward income limit:** wages and salaries; earned income from children between 14 and 18 not in school; self-employment income; social security and railroad benefits; dividends and interest; rental income; public assistance; pension and trust fund incomes; unemployment compensation; disability/compensation payments; alimony; child support; cash support payments; foster care payments.

**Income NOT countable toward income limit:** SSI income; income of children attending school; housing subsidies; fuel assistance; disaster relief; Medicare drug benefits; food stamp income; adoption subsidies; borrowed money; tax refunds; lump sum inheritances, or insurance settlements; capital gains; withdrawals from bank deposits; money received from sale of property (separate from business income); educational loans and grants.

# IOWA TANF PROGRAM

## Eligibility Appendix

June 21, 2007

This appendix summarizes the eligibility rules for the TANF program for Iowa.

### Basic Demographic Requirements

TANF applicants must have at least one child.

### Citizenship

Applicants must be citizens or qualified non-citizens. Qualified non-citizens include legal permanent residents who have been such for the five previous years. There is no citizenship requirement for

(1) Armed Forces' veterans or those on active duty, and their spouses and dependent children; or

(2) those who have resided in the US since 1996, and are now legal permanent residents

There are additional exceptions to the five-year bar that cannot be coded onto the survey data, in particular exceptions for qualified battered aliens.

### Work Requirements

No requirement for initial eligibility. Non-employed ongoing recipients must participate in training or education activities, except for

- 1) children who are not parents, who are either under 16 or students aged 16-19;
- 2) those who are disabled

### Budget Group Composition

Parents of eligible children in the budget group disqualified for work or immigration requirements do not contribute to the size of the budget group; however, their income and their assets count towards the budget group. Those receiving SSI are ineligible for TANF.

### Asset Limits

All budget groups must have assets less than \$2,000 for applicant assistance units (initial application) and \$5,000 for recipient assistance units (ongoing receipt).

**Assets countable toward asset limit:** equity in excess of \$4,435 (in 2007\$, indexed to inflation) in each secondary motor vehicle owned by an adult or teenager with earnings contributed to the budget group, and all equity in any other secondary vehicles (see below); cash; bank deposits (savings and checking accounts), stocks, bonds, and other securities; IRAs and Keogh plans; one-time lump sum payments; property other than home or business. (Actual eligibility rules exclude current earned income or tax credits in savings or checking accounts, as well as disaggregations of principal and interest income from property sales, but these exceptions or disaggregations cannot be coded onto survey data.)

**Assets NOT countable toward asset limit:** the primary (highest-valued) motor vehicle and the first \$4,435 of equity in additional motor vehicles owned by an adult or teenager with earnings contributed to the budget group (see above); primary home; life insurance policy; resources of SSI recipients. There are numerous other non-countable assets: all that is coded as countable is listed above.

## **Income Limits**

Budget groups must pass a series of income tests to determine whether their income is less than some portion of the thresholds listed below. Income eligibility is contingent upon all tests being passed.

### **First Income Calculation & Test**

Sum of all countable income minus child/spousal support paid. Total countable income must be less than the thresholds listed below.

### **Second Income Calculation & Test**

Sum of all countable income – where only 80% of earned income is counted – must be less than 54% of the thresholds used in Test 1.

### **Third Income Calculation & Test**

Sum of all countable income – where only the remaining 50% of the 80% of earned income calculated above is counted – must be less than 54% of the thresholds used in Test 1.

**Income countable toward income limit:** wages and salaries; self-employment income; Social Security, pensions, annuities, and retirement benefits; unemployment, workers' compensation; veterans' benefits; disability payments; trust fund withdrawals; child support (above \$50 per month) and alimony; foster care payments; rental income; strike benefits; charities.

**Income NOT countable toward income limit:** any income not listed above, also including under age 20 student income; assets listed above; child care vouchers; educational assistance and training allowances; fuel assistance; disaster relief; Medicare drug benefits; food stamp income; the first \$50 of child support; deposits into an IDA account; all in-kind income; income of an SSI recipient; housing assistance; interest and dividends.

### **Income Thresholds**

Income before any of the aforementioned deductions (during the first income test) must be less than \$675.2 for family of 1; \$1,330.15 for family of 2; \$1,570.65 for family of 3; \$1,824.10 for family of 4; \$2,020.20 for family of 5; \$2,249.60 for family of 6; \$2,469.75 for family of 7; \$2,695.45 for family of 8; \$2,915.60 for family of 9; \$3,189.40 for family of 10.

# COMBINED FEDERAL AND STATE PUBLIC HOUSING/SECTION 8 Eligibility Appendix

May 23, 2007

This appendix summarizes the eligibility rules programmed to estimate eligibility for the Public Housing and Section 8 programs in DC (2006), IA (2006), IL (2006), MA (2004), MN (2005), NC (2006), NY (2006), OH (2005), TX (2004) and WA (2005). Since Public Housing and Section 8 are federal programs, this appendix includes all federal rules and state exemptions that can be coded onto the survey data.

## **Citizenship**

At least one member of the budget group must be a citizen or legal permanent resident.

## **Work Requirements**

No requirement for initial eligibility. For continuing eligibility, adult household members must participate in an “economic self-sufficiency activity”: 8 hours/month of community service is the minimum requirement for this activity. Budget groups are exempt from the work requirement if they contain someone who is receiving TANF, SSI, subsidized child care, or state general assistance, if available. Individual elderly, disabled, or pregnant adults are also exempt.

## **Asset Limits**

There are no asset limits for Section 8 or Public Housing.

## **Income Limits**

*Public Housing: net income* must be less than 30% or 80% of area median income

*Section 8: net income* must be less than 30% or 50% of area median income

[To reduce complexity, we use 30% of the state’s median income]

**Income NOT countable toward income limit:** earned income from children under age 18; earned income over \$480 for over-18 students; sporadic or irregular income (but charity income is countable); housing subsidies; child care vouchers; educational assistance; fuel assistance; disaster relief; Medicare drug benefits; foster care payments.

## **Gross and Net Income Calculations**

To calculate the budget group’s gross income, count all earned and unearned income, except non-countable income. To calculate net income, subtract the following from gross income:

- (1) \$480 for each dependent
- (2) \$400 for a family with elderly or disabled members
- (3) to the extent that the following sum exceeds 3% of unadjusted annual income, un-reimbursed medical expenses for families with elderly and disabled members, and childcare expenses necessary for employment or education.