

## Jul-Sept 2024 Summary of Changes

Chapter	Passage	Summary
<b>400</b>	0410.0106 0420.0106 0430.0106 0440.0106 0450.0106 0460.0106	Updated language for Authorized Representative
<b>600</b>	0610.0200  0610.0501  0630.0101 0640.0101 0660.0101	Updated simplified reporting requirements to add substantial lottery or gambling winnings  Updated asset limit  Updated language to clarify date of application to be used for Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
<b>1410</b>	1410.1800 1410.1802	Updated age for ABAWDs
<b>1610</b>	1610.0200	Updated asset limit
<b>2000</b>	2010.0201	Updated asset limit

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New language in passages appear blue in color and strikethrough is used for deleted language. The Introduction and Appendices are excluded.

## Listing of Amended Passages

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### **0410.0106 Personal Interest Cases (FS)**

Personal interest cases include members that are friends, neighbors, social acquaintances, co-workers, known members of the same community organization or church, ex-spouses, relatives by blood or marriage, or family members of any of these examples of the Economic Self Sufficiency (ESS) staff.

Staff must not access or view any cases, eligibility record, Child Support Enforcement case or screen, employment and training case or screen, data exchanges, any related computer screens, or any other related materials for personal interest or use.

Staff must not act on any case or personal interest.

Staff must not take any action or gather or provide information from any case as a favor or because of personal influence to any individual.

All staff must immediately report to their supervisor if they receive an assignment for a personal interest case so the case can be reassigned.

Staff are obligated to report to their supervisor if they know of any staff violating this policy.

The following personal interest cases must be maintained in restricted caseloads:

1. Cases with a DCF employee in the benefit;
2. Cases with a DCF employee in the home; or
3. Cases where a DCF employee is a Designated Representative for TCA and/or Medicaid. DCF employees must not be Authorized Representatives ~~for FA~~ unless no one is available. To allow a DCF employee to be an Authorized Representative requires written approval of the Regional ESS Director or his/her designee.

### **0420.0106 Personal Interest Cases (TCA)**

Personal interest cases include members that are friends, neighbors, social acquaintances, co-workers, known members of the same community organization or church, ex-spouses, relatives by blood or marriage, or family members of any of these examples of the Economic Self Sufficiency (ESS) staff.

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1. Cases with a DCF employee in the benefit;

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2. Cases with a DCF employee in the home; or
3. Cases where a DCF employee is a Designated Representative for TCA and/or Medicaid. DCF employees must not be Authorized Representatives ~~for FA~~ unless no one is available. To allow a DCF employee to be an Authorized Representative requires written approval of the Regional ESS Director or his/her designee.

### **0430.0106 Personal Interest Cases (MFAM)**

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### **0440.0106 Personal Interest Cases (MSSI, SFP)**

Personal interest cases include members that are friends, neighbors, social acquaintances, co-workers, known members of the same community organization or church, ex-spouses, relatives by blood or marriage, or family members of any of these examples of the Economic Self Sufficiency (ESS) staff.

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### **0450.0106 Personal Interest Cases (CIC)**

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2. Cases with a DCF employee in the home; or
3. Cases where a DCF employee is a Designated Representative for TCA and/or Medicaid. DCF employees must not be Authorized Representatives ~~for FA~~ unless no one is available. To allow a DCF employee to be an Authorized Representative requires written approval of the Regional ESS Director or his/her designee.

### **0460.0106 Personal Interest Cases (RAP)**

Personal interest cases include members that are friends, neighbors, social acquaintances, co-workers, known members of the same community organization or church, ex-spouses, relatives by blood or marriage, or family members of any of these examples of the Economic Self Sufficiency (ESS) staff.

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All staff must immediately report to their supervisor if they receive an assignment for a personal interest case so the case can be reassigned.

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The following personal interest cases must be maintained in restricted caseloads:

1. Cases with a DCF employee in the benefit;
2. Cases with a DCF employee in the home; or
3. Cases where a DCF employee is a Designated Representative for TCA and/or Medicaid. DCF employees must not be Authorized Representatives for ~~FA~~ unless no one is available. To allow a DCF employee to be an Authorized Representative requires written approval of the Regional ESS Director or his/her designee.

### **0610.0200 SIMPLIFIED REPORTING CHANGE REQUIREMENTS (FS)**

Effective November 1, 2009, all food stamp households are simplified reporting.

Simplified Reporting households must report a change when the total household income exceeds 130% of the federal poverty level for the AG size, ~~or~~ when an able-bodied adult subject to time limits has a change in work hours below twenty hours per week, or [when a member of the household receives substantial lottery or gambling winnings equal to or greater than the maximum allowable asset limit for elderly or disabled households won in a single game before taxes or other withholdings](#). The SFU must report the change by the 10th day of the month following the month of change.

Process beneficial changes, sanction actions and data exchange responses that are considered verified upon receipt: Social Security (Bendex), State Data Exchange (SDX), Unemployment Compensation Benefit (DEUC), Vital Statistics Death Match (DEDT), Department of Corrections (DOC), and Numident (DENU).

If a discrepancy exists with Social Security Match (DETH) or Prisoner Match (DEPR) information, which are not verified upon receipt, contact the customer by phone or send a pending notice for verification.

ACCESS Integrity staff will process prison incarceration information received directly from the Department of Corrections.

Review responses from other data exchanges as part of the next review. Food stamp AGs that also receive TCA and/or Medicaid must report changes according to TCA and/or Medicaid Program requirements. Act on changes reported for TCA and/or Medicaid and make the change to affect all three programs. For beneficial changes, if the household fails to verify the information, leave the food stamp benefits the same. Do not act on reported adverse changes in food stamp only cases unless the change is the total household income exceeds 130% of the federal poverty level for the AG size. In combination cases with food stamps, TCA, and/or Medicaid, process adverse changes based on the information provided by the household.

### **0610.0501 Categorical Eligibility (FS)**

Standard filing units are categorically eligible if they:

1. file a joint application for food stamps and TCA,

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2. file for SSI benefits,
3. file for FS and SSI benefits,
4. have a TCA or SSI application pending and are denied food stamps but are later determined categorically eligible,
5. are SFUs in which all members receive income from TCA, RAP, or SSI, or
6. are SFUs in a food stamp household that does not contain a member disqualified for any one of the five reasons listed below.

These SFUs are eligible for food stamps without separate verification of assets, gross and net income limits, social security number, residency, and sponsored noncitizen status. Broad-Based Categorically Eligible SFUs must meet a gross income limit of 200% of the federal poverty level but have no asset test. If the SFU contains a member who is age 60 or over or meets the definition of food stamp disabled, the SFU must meet the gross income limit of 200% of the federal poverty level for the AG size. If the SFU does not meet the 200% income limit, the SFU must meet the net income limit of 100% of the federal poverty level for the AG size and the asset limit of \$37504,500.

Standard filing units are not categorically eligible or broad-based categorically eligible if:

1. a member is disqualified for IPV,
2. a member is disqualified for employment and training requirements,
3. a member is disqualified for felony drug trafficking, including agreeing, conspiring, combining, or confederating with another person to commit the act committed on or after 8/22/1996,
4. a member is a fleeing felon, or
5. a member who committed certain crimes under federal or similar state law, after February 7, 2014, and who is not in compliance with their sentence term. These crimes include:
  - a. aggravated sexual abuse,
  - b. murder,
  - c. sexual exploitation and other abuse of children,
  - d. offense involving sexual assault, or
  - e. offense under state law similar to one of the above.

Prorate the food stamps for the initial month for AGs that file joint applications and are determined categorically eligible after a prior denial of food stamps. Begin the prorated period on the date of TCA eligibility or the date of the original food stamp application whichever is later.

Provide retroactive food stamps prorated from the application date to any potentially categorically eligible food stamp AG determined TCA eligible within the 30-day food stamp processing time. Reevaluate the original application at the SFU's request or when the Department becomes aware of the SFU's TCA and/or SSI eligibility.

### **0630.0101 Date of Application (MFAM)**

For all households in which the PIP is a member (except sponsors), or is acting as a designated representative, the date of application is the date the Department receives a signed application. When an applicant submits a paper application or verification, the scan/fax date is the date of receipt and the application date. If the Department receives a web-based or facsimile application after normal business hours, establish the first business day following receipt as the application date.

The date a **Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) or a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)** ~~the federally qualified health center or disproportionate share hospital~~ receives and date stamps a signed **paper** application is the official date of application for Medicaid. In the absence of a date stamp, the application date is the date the applicant signs and dates it. **The date a web-based**

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application is submitted by a DSH or FQHC to the Department is the official date of the application, even if the web-based application is submitted after normal business hours.

### **0640.0101 Date of Application (MSSI, SFP)**

For all SFUs in which the PIP is a member (except sponsors), or is acting as a designated representative, the date of application is the date the Department receives a signed application. When an applicant submits a paper application or verification, the scan/fax date is the date of receipt and the application date. If a site receives a web-based or facsimile application after normal business hours, establish the first business day following receipt as the application date.

The date a [Disproportionate Share Hospital \(DSH\) or a Federally Qualified Health Center \(FQHC\)](#) ~~the federally qualified health center or disproportionate share hospital~~ receives and date stamps a signed [paper](#) application is the official date of application for Medicaid. In the absence of a date stamp, the application date is the date the applicant signs and dates it. [The date a web-based application is submitted by a DSH or FQHC to the Department is the official date of the application, even if the web-based application is submitted after normal business hours.](#)

### **0660.0101 Date of Application (RAP)**

For all SFUs in which the PIP is a member or is acting as an authorized representative, the date of application is the date the Department receives a signed application. When an applicant submits a paper application or verification, the scan/fax date is the date of receipt and the application date. If a site receives a web-based or facsimile application after normal business hours, establish the first business day following receipt as the application date.

The date a [Disproportionate Share Hospital \(DSH\) or a Federally Qualified Health Center \(FQHC\)](#) ~~the federally qualified health center or disproportionate share hospital~~ receives and date stamps a signed [paper](#) application is the official date of application for Medicaid. In the absence of a date stamp, the application date is the date the applicant signs and dates it. [The date a web-based application is submitted by a DSH or FQHC to the Department is the official date of the application, even if the web-based application is submitted after normal business hours.](#)

### **1410.1800 ABLE-BODIED ADULT WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (FS)**

The need to recover Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) are persons 18 through ~~52~~ [54](#) years of age, who do not have dependent children and who do not meet an exemption. "Time-Limited" ABAWDs are individuals who are not otherwise exempt from Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) work registration and participation and do not meet an exemption to the ABAWD time limits. An individual who can be reasonably anticipated to become an ABAWD at some point within the four-month certification period and will not meet any other exemptions is considered to be a potential ABAWD. Some examples of potential ABAWDs include:

- Last child is turning 18,
- Graduating from school,
- Employment is expected to end, or
- Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB) is expected to end

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### **1410.1802 Exemptions from ABAWD Provisions (FS)**

The time limit does not apply, and the individual is not a “time-limited” ABAWD if he or she meets any of the following exemptions:

1. Is under 18 years of age or over ~~52~~<sup>54</sup> years of age. A person is considered ~~53~~ 55 on their <sup>55<sup>th</sup></sup> ~~53<sup>rd</sup>~~ birthday.
2. Physically or mentally unfit for employment (including 2 months post-partum). An individual is physically or mentally unfit for employment if he or she:
  - a. Is receiving temporary or permanent disability benefits issued by governmental Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Income (SSI/SSDI) or private sources. Is obviously mentally or physically unfit for employment as determined by the eligibility specialist. Individuals are obviously unable to participate due to a physical or mental incapacity only if the physical or mental impairment(s) are of such severity that the individual is not only unable to do their previous work but cannot, considering education and work experience, engage in any other kind of substantial gainful work which exists in the national/state/local economy. This includes individuals who have proof of applying for SSI. The eligibility specialist is to record observations used to determine unfitness on CLRC.
  - b. If the unfitness is not obvious, it must be verified with a written or verbal statement from a physician, physician’s assistant, nurse, nurse practitioner, designated representative of the physician’s office, a licensed or certified psychologist, a social worker, or other medical personnel indicating, the individual is physically or mentally unfit for employment.
3. Is a parent (natural, adoptive, or step) or other member of the food stamp standard filing unit (SFU) with a child under age 18 in the standard filing unit, even if the member who is under 18 is not eligible for food stamps.
4. Is residing in an SFU where an SFU member is under age 18, even if the SFU member who is under 18 is not himself eligible for food stamps.
5. Is pregnant.
6. Is caretaker of an incapacitated individual.
7. Is caretaker of a child under 6 years of age.
8. Is a UCB applicant/recipient.
9. Is in a Drug or alcohol treatment program (does not include Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous or Sober Living Houses).
10. Is employed 120 hours/month or equivalent earnings (at least \$870 monthly).
11. Is a student enrolled at least half time.
12. Is a refugee participating in Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) E&T program.
13. Is a migrant worker with agreement to begin work within 30 days.

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14. Is a homeless individual (lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence or an individual whose primary nighttime residence is a supervised shelter designed to provide temporary accommodations).
15. Is a veteran (served in any United States Armed Forces).
16. Is an individual who is 24 years of age or younger and who was in foster care under the state's responsibility on the date they reached 18 years of age" (former foster care individual).

### **1610.0200 ASSET LIMITS (FS)**

**The asset limit is the maximum amount of liquid and/or nonliquid assets that an assistance group can retain and remain eligible for public assistance.**

The total countable assets of the assistance group cannot exceed:

1. ~~\$2,750~~ **3,000** for assistance groups that do not include an elderly or disabled member; or
2. ~~\$4,250~~ **4,5000** for assistance groups that include a member(s) who is elderly or disabled. Elderly is defined as being age 60 or older. An individual may be considered elderly if they will be age 60 by the last day of the application month.

For categorically eligible households, countable assets are assumed to be within the FS asset limits.

### **2010.0201 Categorically Eligible Assistance Groups (FS)**

A categorically eligible assistance group is one in which all members are receiving or are authorized to receive Temporary Cash Assistance or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits or a combination of Temporary Cash Assistance and SSI. A broad-based categorically eligible standard filing unit (SFU) is one that receives information about Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Maintenance of Effort funded services or benefits on an ACCESS Florida notice and does not contain a disqualified member. An individual is considered a recipient of Temporary Cash Assistance or SSI if the benefits have been authorized but not received, if the benefits are suspended or recouped, or if the benefits are not paid because they are less than a minimum amount.

Families that are receiving or are authorized to receive services through Healthy Families Florida are considered categorically eligible.

The assistance group cannot be considered categorically eligible for months in which an individual opts not to receive Temporary Cash Assistance, months that a SFU contains an ineligible or disqualified member or receives medical assistance only.

Individuals who are categorically eligible for food stamps are considered to have met gross and net income limits, asset limits, SSN requirements, and residency without further verification, unless questionable.

Broad-based categorically eligible SFUs must meet the 200% gross income limits. If the SFU contains a member who is age 60 or over or meets the definition of food stamp disabled, the SFU

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must meet the gross income limit of 200% of the federal poverty level for the AG size. If the SFU does not meet the 200% of the federal poverty income limit, the SFU must meet the net income limit of 100% of the federal poverty level for the AG size and the asset limit of ~~\$4,250~~ 4,500.

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