

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Children and Family Services

Economic Stability

Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)

(LAC 67:III.1942)

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Economic Stability, has exercised the emergency provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) to repeal LAC 67:III, Subpart 3 Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Chapter 19 Certification of Eligible Households, Subchapter G Work Requirements, Section 1942 Workforce Training and Education Pilot Initiative. This emergency rule shall be effective October 1, 2015 and shall remain in effect for a period of 120 days.

Pursuant to the authority granted to the department by the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) and Act 622 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the department is repealing Section 1942 to terminate the Workforce Training and Education Pilot Initiative. The pilot initiative was established in Tangipahoa parish for the purpose of enhancing workforce readiness and improving employment opportunities for SNAP recipients in that parish who are unemployed or underemployed able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). Unless exempt, these ABAWDs were required to either work an average of 20 hours per week or participate/comply with certain programs that enhance workforce readiness and improve employment for an average of 20 hours per week. Furthermore, the current ABAWD Time Limit waiver expires on September 30, 2015; therefore, ABAWDs statewide will be subject to the SNAP time limit.

The department considers emergency action necessary to terminate the pilot initiative. The authorization to promulgate emergency rules to facilitate the termination is contained in

Act 622 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Title 67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Part III. Economic Stability

Subpart 3. Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)

Chapter 19. Certification of Eligible Households

Subchapter G. Work Requirements

~~§1942. Workforce Training and Education Pilot Initiative~~

~~A. The department shall administer a workforce training and education pilot initiative within SNAP for the purpose of enhancing workforce readiness and improving employment opportunities for SNAP recipients who are unemployed or underemployed able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). Individuals to be served by the pilot initiative shall include, exclusively, all ABAWDs residing in Tangipahoa parish who are not exempt by provisions of this Section.~~

~~B. Individuals are ineligible to continue to receive SNAP benefits if, during any 36-month period after February 2015, they received SNAP benefits for at least three months (consecutive or otherwise) while that individual did not either:~~

- ~~1. work an average of 20 hours per week;~~
- ~~2. participate in and comply with a Job Training Partnership Act Program, Trade Adjustment Act Program, or Employment and Training Program (other than a job search or job search training program) for 20 hours or more per week; or~~
- ~~3. participate in and comply with a workfare program.~~

~~C. An individual is exempt from this requirement if the individual is:~~

- ~~1. under age 18, or 50 years of age or older;~~

~~2. medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment;~~

~~3. a parent of a household member under age 18, even if the household member who is under age 18 does not receive SNAP benefits;~~

~~4. residing in a household where a household member is under age 18, even if the household member who is under age 18 does not receive SNAP benefits;~~

~~5. pregnant;~~

~~6. meeting one or more of the following criteria relative to educational advancement:~~

~~a. in the previous six months, the individual enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution that grants associate or baccalaureate degrees;~~

~~b. in the previous six months, the individual enrolled in a program designed to lead to a high school diploma;~~

~~c. in the previous six months, the individual enrolled in a general education development test preparation course;~~

~~d. in the previous six months, the individual earned a high school diploma or a general education development certificate;~~

~~7. satisfactorily participating or satisfactorily participated in LaJET (a SNAP employment and training program) in the previous six months; or~~

~~8. otherwise exempt from work registration requirements.~~

~~D. Regaining Eligibility for Assistance~~

~~1. Individuals denied eligibility under the pilot initiative rule can regain eligibility if during a 30-day period the individual:~~

~~a. works 80 hours or more;~~

~~b. participates in and complies with a Job Training and Partnership Act Program, Trade Adjustment Assistance Act Program, or Employment and Training Program (other than a job search or job search training program) for 80 hours or more;~~

~~e. participates in and complies with a workfare program (under Section 20 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 or a comparable state or local program) for 80 hours or more.~~

~~2. An individual who regained eligibility and who is no longer fulfilling the work requirement is eligible for three consecutive countable months one time in any 36 month period, starting on the date the individual first notifies the agency that he or she is no longer fulfilling the work requirement, unless the individual has:~~

~~a. met one or more of the following criteria relative to educational advancement:~~

~~i. in the previous six months, the individual enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution that grants associate or baccalaureate degrees;~~

~~ii. in the previous six months, the individual enrolled in a program designed to lead to a high school diploma;~~

~~iii. in the previous six months, the individual enrolled in a general education development test preparation course;~~

~~iv. in the previous six months, the individual earned a high school diploma or a general education development certificate;~~

~~b. satisfactorily participated in LaJET (a SNAP employment and training program) in the previous six months; or~~

~~c. otherwise been exempted from work registration requirements.~~

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with P.L. 104-193, P.L. 110-246, and Act 622 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Economic Stability Section, LR 41:533 (March 2015), repealed LR 41:

Suzy Sonnier
Secretary