

# NM center on law and poverty

## Expedited (Emergency) SNAP Benefits

HELP ENSURE EXPEDITED SNAP BENEFITS ARE PROPERLY MADE AVAILABLE

In the face of rising unemployment, more New Mexicans have found themselves in need of supports such as the benefits provided by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP formerly known as the foods stamp program). Expedited SNAP benefits are designed to make assistance quickly available to those who are likely to go hungry because they are unable to purchase food.

Your client may be eligible for expedited SNAP benefits if:

- Their gross income is less than \$150 per month, and they have less than \$100 in countable liquid resources; or
- They have housing costs (monthly rent, or mortgage, and utilities) greater than their combined gross monthly income and countable liquid resources; or
- They are migrant farm workers with \$100 or less in countable liquid resources and are determined to be destitute.<sup>1</sup>

**Please help us ensure this vital assistance is properly being made available. Make your clients aware of the following legal requirements and let us know if they are being violated or if your clients are experiencing other barriers to accessing expedited benefits.**

- All SNAP applications must be screened for expedited eligibility when the individual applies.<sup>2</sup>
- Those eligible for expedited benefits must receive their EBT card *with their benefits on it* within seven days of applying.<sup>3</sup> If the card will not arrive in the mail by the seventh day, the Department must make an EBT card with benefits available for pick up at the local ISD office.
- The only verification a household entitled to expedited benefits must provide before receiving expedited benefits is proof of identity. If traditional forms of identity are not available, the applicant may document identity through a collateral contact (such as a case worker or shelter worker).<sup>4</sup>
- Those eligible for expedited benefits who apply after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and complete the application process, are entitled to receive the prorated benefit amount for that month, plus the benefit amount for the month coming up within the seven day expedited timeframe.<sup>5</sup> For example, if you apply on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August and are determined to be eligible for \$200/month, you are entitled to receive the pro-rated benefit for August (\$97) and the full benefit amount for September (\$200) for a total benefit amount of \$297 within seven days.
- There is no yearly or life-time limit on how many times one can get expedited SNAP benefits.<sup>6</sup>

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*To report problems, or for more information, please contact Patricia Anders at [patricia@nmpovertylaw.org](mailto:patricia@nmpovertylaw.org).*

<sup>1</sup> § 8.139.110.16(A)(1) NMAC.

<sup>2</sup> 7 C.F.R. § 273.2(i)(2).

<sup>3</sup> § 8.139.110.16(B)(1) NMAC.

<sup>4</sup> § 8.139.110.16(A)(2) NMAC.

<sup>5</sup> 7 C.F.R. § 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(C).

<sup>6</sup> As long as prior to each expedited certification, the household either completes the verification requirements that were postponed at the last expedited certification or was certified under normal processing standards since the last expedited certification. § 8.139.110.16(C) NMAC.

720 Vassar Drive NE • Albuquerque NM • 87106  
[www.nmpovertylaw.org](http://www.nmpovertylaw.org) • Phone: (505) 255-2840 • Fax: (505) 255-2778