



Community Justice Project
118 Locust Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

SNAP Only: How to Get Child Care and Other Supportive Services When Your Family Gets SNAP, But Not Cash Assistance

(July 2013)

Families that get SNAP (food stamps), but not cash assistance (“SNAP-only” households) can get many of same special allowances for supportive services (SPALs) to attend school or job skills training that cash assistance families get.

Here is what you should say to your caseworker to get these services:

- My family is a “SNAP-only household.”
- I would like an appointment to enroll as a volunteer in the SNAP “Employment and Training Program,” so that I can go to school (or attend a job training program).
- I understand that I must enter into an “Employment Development Plan” (EDP). Please list my school, job training (or job search) on my EDP as my employment and training activity.
- I need supportive services (name the services needed) in order to follow my approved plan. (The welfare office must make a decision on your request for supportive services no later than 15 days following the date of your request.)

NOTE: The welfare office may deny SPALs (supportive services) to SNAP-only parents if they started an education program and paid **any** school-related expense (such as child care, transportation or books) before getting this activity approved on an EDP.

- If you are a SNAP-only parent and are thinking about starting an education or training program, you should contact the welfare office and get this activity approved on an EDP **BEFORE** you pay any of your school-related expenses.
- If you have already started your education, you can get SPALs as long as you have not yet paid any school-related expenses on your own and you get this activity approved on an EDP. (See, Policy Clarification on reverse side.)
- If you have been denied SPALs because you paid a school-related expense on your own, you should get your education or training program approved on an EDP right away so that you can get SPALs for the next semester. (See, Policy Clarification on reverse side)

For more information or questions, contact the Community Justice Project at:
(800) 322-7572, ext.210, or pzurflieh@palegalaid.net

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Deputy's Corner/ CAO Focus/ TANF R/ Customer Service Center/Modern Office/LIHEAP-eCIS/Phase IV-B/LEP

Policy Clarifications - Employment & Training - Policy/Procedure ESA16652535

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Agency: CAOs

TR No. 16652

Citations:

Subject: SPAL eligibility for self-initiated SNAP recipients

Can you provide clarification of SNAP recipients' eligibility for SPALs for education expenses when they have self-initiated into education? How often should their eligibility be evaluated?

Response By: Barbara Deppen

Date:05/13

Per EPP-676-135 and EPP-16504-535: If a SNAP client's self-initiated activity is otherwise approvable and the SPAL expenses are not being paid, then it may be approved and SPALs issued even though the activity began prior to signing the EDP. If the expenses have already been paid, the SNAP-only client is not eligible to have the self-initiated activity approved on the EDP and it should not be supported with SPALs.

Remember: SPALs cannot be issued to reimburse the client for items or services that have already been paid for or obtained. The CAO makes the determination of whether the SNAP E&T activity should be approved and SPALs authorized.

A self-initiated student's need for supportive services (SPALs) should be evaluated each semester/term.