

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This Chapter describes the application and redetermination processes for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP - formerly known as the Food Stamp Program), WV WORKS and all Medicaid coverage groups, except those related to long-term care. See Chapter 17. Also included is specific information about each benefit.

General requirements that are not specific to any Program or coverage group are included together. The general section is followed by a section describing all of the Department's application forms. Policies and procedures specific to each Program or coverage group are also included.

Data entry instructions for all programs are in the RAPIDS User Guide.

1.2 GENERAL INFORMATION

This Section contains general information, applicable to all Programs and coverage groups.

A. APPLICANT AND POTENTIAL APPLICANT'S RIGHTS

In addition to addressing all questions and concerns the client may have, the Worker must explain the benefits of each Program and inform the client of his right to apply for any or all of them.

1. Right To Apply

No person is denied the right to apply for any Program administered by the Division of Family Assistance. Every person must be afforded the opportunity to apply for all Programs on the date he expresses his interest.

NOTE: When an application has been made for WV WORKS and/or Medicaid and the application is denied, withdrawn, approved for a DCA payment, or held pending additional information, the AG must not be required to make a separate application for SNAP benefits. SNAP eligibility must be determined using the application already completed.

When it is not feasible for the applicant to be interviewed on the date he expresses his interest, he must be allowed to complete the process at a later date. An appointment may be scheduled for his return, or the client may return at his convenience, depending upon the procedure established by the CSM. The same procedure must be used for all applicants within the county. If a follow-up appointment is scheduled and the applicant appears for the interview, he must be seen on that day and not required to return again to complete the application process.

NOTE: SNAP applicants must be given a scheduled interview when it is not feasible to conduct an interview on the date the application is made. Any special needs such as, but not limited to, the applicant's work schedule, must be accommodated.

NOTE: When the applicant has completed the interactive interview, and there is a technical failure that prevents printing the **DFA-2**, form **DFA-5** must be signed by the applicant and filed in the record with the **DFA-2** after it is printed. He must not be required to return to the office to sign the **DFA-2** when the **DFA-5** has been signed.

The redetermination process involves basically the same activities described in item 1 above. Data system changes and client notification of any changes resulting from the redetermination conclude the process.

3. Case Reviews And Case Maintenance

While a redetermination is a required periodic review of total eligibility, a review may be conducted at anytime on a single, or combination of questionable eligibility factor(s).

The case maintenance process may involve a review or activities that update the Department's information about the recipient's circumstances between the application and first redetermination and between redeterminations. Changes in eligibility or the benefit amount may occur. If so, data system action and client notification of any changes are required.

Some special situations may require a more formal review process. This may be a special procedure to target an error problem.

NOTE: Home visits for SNAP AG's may only be made on case-by-case basis and not because an AG fits an error prone or other profile.

NOTE: See Chapter 2 for detailed information regarding the case maintenance process.

4. Resource Development

Medicaid recipients are responsible for applying for and accepting alternative means of support. This is an eligibility requirement for this Program. See Chapter 5.

WV WORKS recipients are responsible for taking necessary steps to apply for alternate available resources. This resource development is part of the Personal Responsibility Contract. See Section 5.2 for details and exceptions.

SNAP recipients must be encouraged to take advantage of any potential resources that may be available, but failure to apply for or accept such benefits does not affect SNAP eligibility.

C. APPLICATION REGISTER AND OTHER COUNTY CONTROLS**1. Application Register**

Each local office must maintain a register of applications on Form ES-15, Application Log, or a similar method, containing at a minimum, the same information on the ES-15. The office may choose to have the application register maintained for the entire office or for each WV WORKS or Income Maintenance unit. If retained by each unit, copies of the registers must be compiled at the end of each month and stored together in one location.

2. Home Visit Register

The local office must devise a method to control and monitor inquiries and requests for applications which require a home visit. In addition, any home visit made must be shown on the log.

If any other registers or controls related to the application process are required, they are Program-specific and listed under each Program or coverage group.

The Worker, Supervisor, CSM or RD may establish any other registers necessary for the day-to-day operation of the local office.

D. WORKER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Worker has the following general responsibilities in the application process. Responsibilities that are Program- or coverage group-specific are found in the Program sections of this Chapter.

- Inform the client of the benefits the Department offers.
- Accept an application from any person or his representative who wishes to apply.
- Ensure the client is given the opportunity to apply for all of the Department's Programs on the date that he expresses an interest.
- Obtain all pertinent, necessary information through verification, when appropriate.
- Inform the client of his responsibilities, the process involved in establishing his eligibility, including the Department's processing time limits, and how the beginning date of eligibility is determined.

- Reviewing the **DFA-2** to make certain that the client understood each question and answered to the best of his ability. If the client is unable to complete the form himself, and there is no one else to help him, the Worker must complete the form based on information provided by the client.
- Explaining the applicant's responsibility to provide complete and accurate information and the penalties for failure to do so.
- Discussing all statements on the DFA-RR-1 with the client to be sure he understands each one and marks each appropriately.
- Explaining fully the benefits of the Program(s) for which the client applies. This includes: when benefits are received, how received, description of the benefit, how to use the benefit, as well as any other pertinent information related to receipt and use of the benefit.
- Explaining how eligibility for the Program(s) is determined and, if applicable, how the amount of the benefit is computed.

for redeterminations submitted by inROADS. The client may always request a face-to-face interview. See Program Sections for specific information about the redetermination process.

7. Redeterminations Submitted by inROADS

Recipients of some Medicaid coverage groups, WV CHIP and other Programs receive an instruction letter and redetermination form. The client may choose to return the completed form and information by mail or complete the redetermination online by use of inROADS. The recipient receives certain information in the letter which must be entered online to use the inROADS redetermination process.

inROADS brings some information from RAPIDS into the online redetermination for some programs and coverage groups. The RAPIDS information shows in the following:

- WV CHIP – alternating years, when the redetermination is passive
- QMB, SLIMB, QI-1 and PAC

All other inROADS redeterminations only show current basic demographic information from RAPIDS.

No signature page is required and the redetermination is considered electronically signed when the recipient uses this process and enters information from the letter and other identifying information requested.

The online process is available for use through the end of the month the redetermination is due. Redeterminations submitted in inROADS are processed by use of RAPIDS Inbox screen INRV.

The client may also submit an application for another benefit(s) at the time of the inROADS redetermination.

L. CLIENT NOTIFICATION, WRITTEN AND VERBAL

The client must be notified in writing of the final decision on his application and the reason for it. Notification must be provided for each Program for which the client applied, but notification for more than one Program may be included on one form letter.

NOTE: There is specific, court-ordered client notification policy which must be followed. There are also specific forms which must be used and detailed procedures to follow. Chapter 6 is devoted exclusively to client notification.

During the intake interview or during some other client contact prior to written client notification, the Worker may know whether or not the client is eligible and, if so, the amount of the benefit. The Worker may tell the client the status of his application and/or benefit level, if he so chooses. However, even if the client has been told his status and/or benefit level, he must still receive the information in writing. See Chapter 6.

Under some circumstances, the data system automatically generates notification to the client. See the RAPIDS User Guide.

M. COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process is completed when all of the following have occurred:

- Action is taken as follows:
 - To approve the application when all eligibility requirements are met; or
 - To withdraw the application at the client's verbal or written request, when a signed signature page from an inROADS application is not received or when he refuses to sign the application form; or
 - To deny the application when at least one eligibility requirement is not met or the client has failed to establish eligibility.
- The client is notified of the action taken.
- The client receives his initial benefit, if eligible.

N. COMMUNICATION WITH SSA

Each CSM is responsible for appointing a contact person to communicate with a contact person in the local SSA Office. This contact person does not interpret policy, but works out communication problems and any problems dealing with the completion and forwarding of forms, including those involved in the joint application process for SNAP benefits. The Department's contact works directly with the contact from SSA.

Any matters that cannot be worked out between the local office and the SSA contact person are referred to a DFA Policy Unit and to the SSA District Office by the appropriate staff.