

Eligibility Determination Groups

- Statutory blindness, except if due to cataracts or detached retina.
 - IQ 59 or less, established after attaining age 16.
 - Spinal cord or nerve root lesions resulting in paraplegia or quadriplegia.
 - Multiple sclerosis in which there is damage of the nervous system because of scattered areas of inflammation which recurs and has progressed to varied interference with the function of the nervous system, including severe muscle weakness, paralysis and vision and speech defects.
 - Muscular dystrophy with irreversible wasting of the muscles with a significant effect on the ability to use the arms and/or legs.
 - Impaired renal function due to chronic renal disease, documented by persistent adverse objective findings, resulting in severely reduced function which may require dialysis or kidney transplant.
 - Amputation of a limb, current age 55 or older; and
- The gross non-excluded income of the others with whom the individual resides, excluding the individual's own income and the income of his spouse and children, cannot exceed the amount shown in the E & D column of Appendix A of Chapter 10. The individual, his spouse and children are not included in the total count of those residing together, when comparing gross non-excluded income to the amount in column E & D. Only income

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not normally excluded from consideration for the SNAP Program is used to determine the gross income compared to the E & D column amount.

The individual who meets these three requirements and his spouse and children under age 22 may be a separate AG, even if living with and purchasing and preparing food with others. The disability must be verified by a licensed medical professional, unless it is obvious to the Worker. See Section 12.15.

(2) Purchase and Prepare Separately

Individuals or groups of individuals living with others, but who customarily purchase food and prepare meals separately, are an AG.

Customarily purchasing and preparing food separately means that, during the certification period, the client actually purchases and prepares his food separately from the others in the household over 50% of the time, except for an occasional shared meal. This occasional sharing of food does not interfere with his separate AG status.

EXCEPTION: The following individuals who live together must be in the same AG, even if they do not purchase and prepare meals together.

- Spouses **are individuals who are married to each other under state law.**

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- Children Under Age 18, Not Living With a Parent

Children under age 18 who live with and are under the parental control of an adult AG member who is not a parent, must be in the same AG as the member who exercises parental control.

- Children Under Age 22, Living With a Parent

Natural or adopted children and stepchildren who are under 22 years of age and who live with a parent must be in the same AG as that parent.

In the instance of shared custody, when the child is legally considered to reside with each parent equal amounts of time (50/50), the parents must decide where the child “lives”. If no one is receiving any benefits from the Department for the child, it is assumed that the living arrangements are not questionable and the child is added to the AG that wishes to add him. If the child is already listed in another AG or the other parent wishes to add the child to his AG, the parents must agree as to where the child “lives” and, ultimately, to which AG he is added. Where the child receives the majority of his meals is not relevant.

2. Who Cannot Be Included

The following individuals who reside with an AG are not considered AG members or are ineligible to be included in the AG. See item B below for treatment of these individuals’ income.

- a. Those Who Do Not Purchase and Prepare Food Together

Other individuals who share living quarters with the AG, but who do not customarily purchase and prepare food with them are not included in the AG. These individuals may apply as a separate

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AG. However, the exceptions described in item 1,b,(2) above must be considered.

b. Roomer

An individual or group of individuals to whom a household furnishes lodging for compensation, but not meals, is considered a roomer. This individual or group of individuals may be a separate AG.

c. Boarder

(1) Commercial Boarding Houses

Residents of commercial boarding houses that are licensed to offer meals and lodging for compensation with the intent of making a profit, are not eligible to participate in SNAP.

(2) Household Boarding

An individual or group of individuals to whom a household furnishes lodging and meals and who pays a reasonable monthly payment for board, can not participate in the SNAP Program independently, but may receive SNAP benefits as part of the AG with which he lives, if the AG so requests. If the AG does not wish to include the boarders, they are considered non-AG members, and may not receive benefits as a separate AG.

To be considered a boarder, it is necessary to determine if an individual pays a reasonable monthly payment for board. A reasonable monthly payment is defined as one of the following.

- More than two meals daily: An amount equal to or exceeding the maximum monthly coupon allotment for the appropriate size of the boarder AG; or
- Two meals or less daily: An amount equal to or exceeding two-thirds of the monthly coupon allotment for the appropriate size of the boarder AG.