

May 17, 2024

## **GENERAL LETTER NO. 7-I-48**

**ISSUED BY:** Bureau of Financial, Food, and Work Supports  
Division of Community Access

**SUBJECT:** Employees' Manual, Title 7, Chapter I, ***SNAP Specific Households and Participants***, Contents 1 and 2, Contents 3, 11, 25, 26 and 27, 29, 41-46, 47, 64, 65, 66, revised.

### **Summary**

This chapter is revised to

- Update ABAWD exemption and work requirement information
- Clarify how students in special programs may be exempt from MWR
- Update the legal reference for resources of students
- Provide guidance on how to treat the income and deductions of NAC matched individuals
- Update alien requirements for verifying identity
- Update the definition of work for the purposes of meeting the ABAWD work requirement
- Clarify policies about ceasing to meet the work requirement

### **Effective Date**

Upon receipt.

### **Material Superseded**

Remove the following pages from Employees' Manual, Title 7, Chapter I, and destroy them:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>
Contents 1 and 2	October 21, 2022
Contents 3	March 31, 2023
11, 25	October 21, 2022
26 and 27, 29	September 1, 2023
41-46	October 21, 2022
47, 64	March 31, 2023
65	May 12, 2023
66	September 1, 2023

### **Additional Information**

Refer questions about this general letter to your area income maintenance administrator.

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## **Alien Status Verification Requirements**

Legal reference: Section 121 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986  
(Public Law 99-603); Public Laws 104-193 and 107-171

Before being certified or added to a certified household, all aliens aged 14 or older must provide documentation that they have one of the “eligible alien” statuses as described under [Who Is an Eligible Alien](#). Aliens whose entry date determines eligibility must also provide verification of the entry or admission date from which their eligible status started.

Legal immigrants whose eligibility is dependent on having been lawfully residing in the United States on August 22, 1996, must prove they were lawfully present on that date and prove they meet the age requirement. Legal immigrants whose eligibility is dependent on disability must prove their legal status and prove that they are disabled according to the policy in [7-A, Disabled Member](#). See [Eligible Aliens](#).

In addition to the documentation discussed above, all aliens claiming an “eligible alien” status for SNAP purposes must provide verification of their identity.

When an alien provides documentation, check the following documentation chart to see if the person is an eligible alien. The chart lists the types of documentation that can be used to verify alien status. It also lists additional verification that certain aliens must provide to prove they are eligible aliens for the SNAP program.

- Mentions that this person is a trafficking victim.
- States the non-work reason that the number is required to receive benefits.
- States that the applicant meets the requirements to receive benefits except for the social security number.

SNAP rules require applicants for benefits who do not have social security numbers to apply for them. Assistance cannot be delayed, denied, or discontinued pending the issuance of the social security number.

If you encounter a person you believe may meet the definition of trafficking victim, go through your usual channels to obtain instructions on assisting the person in contacting HHS ORR for possible certification by that agency.

If a victim of trafficking gains an “eligible alien” status, use the new eligible alien status when redetermining eligibility for that person.

### **Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)**

Legal reference: 7 CFR 273.24, 271.2

“**ABAWDs**” means “able-bodied adults without dependents.”

“**Able-bodied**” means a person is both physically and mentally fit for employment.

“**Dependent**” means a child under age 18 who is or could be part of the person’s SNAP household. The child does not have to be related to the person.

“**Physically or mentally fit for employment**” means the person does not have physical or mental barriers that prevent the person from obtaining or keeping employment.

To get SNAP benefits, an ABAWD must meet one of the requirements under [ABAWD Work Requirement](#). The ABAWD work requirements are in addition to the regular requirements set under [7-C, Work Requirements for MWRs](#).

An ABAWD can get only three months of SNAP benefits while not meeting the ABAWD work requirement. (See [Time Limit for ABAWDs](#).) After using the three months, some ABAWDs can get an additional three months if they meet the conditions under [Additional Three-Months’ Eligibility](#).

### **ABAWD Exemptions**

A person is exempt from the ABAWD work requirements if the person is:

- Exempt from mandatory work registration (MWR) for any reason. See [7-C, Exemptions from Work Registration](#) for a list of exemptions.
- Under age 18. This includes the month in which a person turns 18.
- Aged 53 or over. This includes the month in which a person turns 53.
- Pregnant. This applies to any trimester.

- Unfit either mentally or physically for employment (has a condition that makes the person unemployable or that prevents the person from keeping a job).
- Experiencing homelessness:  
An individual who lacks fixed regular shelter or whose primary shelter meets certain conditions, such as congregate shelters, halfway houses, and temporary accommodations for up to 90 days with another individual.
- Under age 25 and aged out of foster care:  
Individuals who were in foster care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or later. Foster care includes extended foster care programs and foster care programs run by District, Territory, and Indian Tribal Organizations. This applies to foster care in any state, the individual did not need to be in foster care in Iowa to receive this exemption.
- A veteran:  
An individual who served in, and was discharged from, the Armed Forces, including the reserves. Armed Forces include: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard. The individual's discharge status is irrelevant.
- A member of a SNAP household that includes a child under the age of 18.  
NOTE: This also applies when a child is in the home, but is ineligible for non-financial reasons, like not providing an SSN or having an ineligible alien status.  
When parents have shared or joint custody, and both parents have SNAP cases, only the SNAP household where the child receives SNAP benefits can be exempt from the ABAWD work requirements due to having a child under age 18 in the household. The exemption cannot apply to the other parent's SNAP household. In the rare instance when a household can choose to include or exclude the child, and the household chooses to exclude the child, the household loses the opportunity to exercise this exemption because the exemption follows the child.

If an exemption applies for at least one day in a month, the ABAWD is exempt for the entire month.

Determine a person's "fitness" for employment using the prudent-person principle or any reasonable evidence that supports your decision. The person's condition does not need to be permanent for a determination of "unfitness" to be made. Households that are chronically homeless, as defined by the worker, are considered unfit for employment.

Your own observation of the person or information obtained in conversation with the person is a sufficient basis to make a determination as to a person's fitness for employment. If it is not evident to you that a person has a mental or physical limitation that would make the person unfit for employment, you may ask for verification.

Because people who have no source of income or insurance are often not able to receive medical care or substance abuse or mental health treatment, you may need to identify these conditions. If a person is in treatment, you can get a statement from the person's health-care professional or a social worker.

If the person does not have the means to pay for or obtain a professional diagnosis, other evidence may be used. A prudent person can often identify these types of issues without the need for verification. For example, statements from former employers or other persons who know the person's situation can be sufficient evidence of the person's mental or physical limitations.

When your judgment is the only basis for determining that a person is not "fit" for employment, you must document it as such in the person's case record.

**GUIDANCE:** The following scenarios illustrate circumstances that would lead to the determination that a person is unfit for employment.

1. During the application interview, you discover that the person has had many jobs but repeatedly lost them. Through your conversation, you discover the person has a history of getting fired quickly or quitting due to uncontrollable outbursts of anger with the employer or coworkers. This may be an untreated mental health issue that currently makes the person mentally unfit for employment. Document worker determination that the person is physically or mentally unfit due to anger issues explained by the client.
2. While interviewing a person, you discover he has been in and out of various substance abuse treatment programs for several months. Even if he is not currently in a program, these circumstances and issues make him physically or mentally unfit for employment and must be documented in the case file.

Terry is an ABAWD. He receives two months of SNAP benefits while not fulfilling the work requirement during December 2023 and January 2024. In February 2024, he joins his girlfriend's SNAP household. His girlfriend has a two-year-old child. In February, he is exempt from the ABAWD work requirement because of the child. The child's mother is exempt from the ABAWD work requirement due to her employment.

In April, Terry moves out on his own. In May, he is no longer exempt from ABAWD work requirements. Until November 30, 2026, he is entitled to one more month of SNAP benefits while not fulfilling the work requirements, unless he meets the requirements under the policy on [Additional Three-Months' Eligibility](#) or becomes exempt again.

When a new ABAWD period begins December 1, 2026, Terry is eligible for three months of benefits in the new period.

### **ABAWD Work Requirement**

ABAWDs must perform one of the activities listed below to be eligible for SNAP benefits beyond their time limits. The minimum number of hours required for any of the activities is 80 per month. To be eligible beyond the limits, ABAWDs must be:

- Working a total of 80 or more **actual** hours in a month. Do not use minimum wage criteria to determine the number of hours worked.
- Participating for a total of 80 or more **actual** hours in a month in a qualifying work program. Qualifying work programs include:
  - Programs that are offered under Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) or under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974
  - Employment and training programs operated or supervised by a State or political subdivision of a State agency that meet standards approved by the Chief Executive Office, including SNAP E&T programs and programs of employment and training for veterans operated by the Department of Labor or the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Performing any combination of the two work and participation requirements stated above for a total of 80 or more **actual** hours in a month.

### **Tracking**

The ABAWD's case record must be documented to track the number of months that each ABAWD has used towards the three-month time limit. The Worker Information System Exchange (WISE) User Guide gives instructions for documenting ABAWD months in WISE.

Code the ABC system to show that an ABAWD is or is not meeting the ABAWD work requirement. See [14-B-Appendix](#) for how to code the TD03 screen to show whether a person is an ABAWD who is or is not meeting the work requirement. Correct coding of this entry is important for federal reporting requirements and to be able to identify these clients through a system run when necessary.

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## **Homeless Households**

Legal reference: 7 CFR 271.2; 273.2(l)(1); 273.3; 273.1(e)

A “homeless person” means a person who does not have a fixed and regular nighttime residence or a person whose primary nighttime residence is one of the following:

- A supervised shelter designed to provide temporary accommodations (such as a welfare hotel or congregate shelter).
- A halfway house or similar institution that provides temporary residence for people intended to be institutionalized.
- A temporary accommodation of not more than 90 days in the residence of another person, starting with the day the homeless person moved in with that person.
- A place not designed for, or ordinarily used, as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (a hallway, a bus station, a lobby, or similar places).

For homeless households, you can waive the requirement that a household must prove that it lives in Iowa if proof cannot reasonably be obtained. Document in the case file any efforts to verify residency.

Homeless households living in public or private nonprofit shelters for the homeless can get SNAP if they meet all other eligibility criteria. This is an exception to the policy that residents of institutions are not eligible for SNAP.

## **Ineligible Household Members**

Legal reference: 7 CFR 273.1(b)(7)

“Ineligible members” are people who would normally get SNAP with other members of the household but are not included because they are ineligible to participate for some reason. The following are ineligible household members:

- Ineligible students. See [Students](#).
- Ineligible aliens. See [Households with Alien Members](#).
- Ineligible adults who are not disabled and have no dependents. See [Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents \(ABAWDs\)](#).
- People disqualified for intentional program violation. See [7-J, Intentional Program Violation](#).
- People disqualified for failure to provide a social security number. See [7-C, Social Security Numbers](#).
- People disqualified for failing to respond to a NAC Match.
- People disqualified for failing to comply with a mandatory work registrant requirement. See [7-C, Work Requirements for MWRs](#).
- Probation or parole violators and fleeing felons. See [Fleeing Felons and Parole and Probation Violators](#).
- Residents of institutions. See [7-C, Residents of Institutions](#).
- SSI recipients whose SNAP benefits were received as cash in a state that cashes out SNAP benefits to SSI recipients.

Do **not** include the ineligible members listed above when determining:

- The size of the eligible household for the maximum net monthly allotment.
- The appropriate resource limit for the eligible household.
- If the eligible household needs to meet either gross or net income guidelines.

**Do** consider the relationship of the ineligible members listed previously to others in the household for the purposes of determining who is a mandatory household member.

NOTE: When a person is both an ineligible alien and an ineligible student use the policies for ineligible aliens.

Follow policies in [7-G](#) when acting on changes for ineligible household members.

### **Resources of Ineligible Household Members**

Legal reference: 7 CFR 273.8(e)(13) and (j), 273.11(c) and (d)

Use the same resource policies for ineligible members as you do for eligible members to determine whether a resource is countable or not. See [7-D, Whose Resources to Count](#) for what resources are and are not counted.

Count the entire value of the resources of the following ineligible household members towards the eligible household's resource limit, unless the resources are exempt by policies in [7-D](#):

- Ineligible aliens
- People disqualified for intentional program violation
- People who fail to provide a social security number
- NAC matched individuals who fail to respond to the NAC match at application, recertification, or the addition of a new household member
- People disqualified for failing to comply with a mandatory work registrant requirement
- Ineligible ABAWDs
- Fleeing felons and parole and probation violators

Do **not** count the value of any of the resources of an ineligible student towards the eligible household's resource limit.

## **Income and Deductions of Ineligible Household Members**

Legal reference: 7 CFR 273.11(c), 87 FR 59633

Use the same income policies for an ineligible member's income as you do for eligible members. Income that is excluded for eligible household members is also excluded for ineligible household members. Earned versus unearned income policies also apply the same for ineligible members.

Deductions that are allowable for eligible members may be allowed for ineligible members. The reason a person is ineligible determines what and how much is allowed as a deduction for the eligible household.

See [7-E, Income](#) for policies on specific types of income and details on handling deductions.

### **Income**

The reason a person is ineligible determines how much of the person's income you count as income to the eligible household members.

Do **not** count the income of ineligible students towards the eligible household. If ineligible students give money to the eligible household, count it as unearned income.

Count all of the income of the following ineligible members towards the eligible household:

- People disqualified for intentional program violation
- Fleeing felons and parole and probation violators
- People disqualified for failing to comply with a mandatory work registrant requirement

Count a prorated share of the following ineligible members' income towards the eligible household:

- Ineligible aliens
- People who fail to provide a social security number
- NAC matched individuals who fail to respond to the NAC match at application, recertification, or the addition of a new household member
- Ineligible ABAWDs

To determine the amount of prorated income to count towards the eligible members of the household:

1. Subtract the earned income deduction from the ineligible member's earned income.
2. Divide the ineligible member's income evenly among the household members, including the ineligible members.
3. Count the income attributed to the eligible members as unearned income.

1. Mr. and Mrs. X have three children. Mrs. X is an ineligible alien. Mr. X and the children are SNAP participants. Mrs. X works for a local janitorial service and makes \$500 each month. To calculate how much of Mrs. X's income to count towards the eligible household:
- Subtract the earned income deduction from her total gross monthly income. ( $\$500 \times .20 = \$100$ ,  $\$500 - \$100 = \$400$ )
  - Divide the \$400 by the number of people in the household, including Mrs. X. ( $\$400$  divided by 5 = \$80/person)
  - Disregard the portion from Mrs. X, and count the remainder as unearned income to the rest of the household. ( $\$400 - \$80 = \$320$ )
2. The household consists of Mr. and Mrs. B and their one child. Mr. B is an alien. Mrs. B and the child are U.S. citizens. Mr. B is eligible to be included in the FIP grant, but is not eligible for SNAP because he cannot meet the 40-qualifying-quarters requirement. Mr. B earns \$500 per month (gross income). The household's FIP grant is \$226.
- Earned Income:
- Subtract the earned income deduction from Mr. B's gross monthly income. ( $\$500 \times .80 = \$400$ )
  - Divide \$400 by the number of people in the household, including Mr. B. ( $\$400$  divided by 3 people = \$133.33 per person)
  - Take the \$133.33 per person and multiply it by the number of eligible household members. ( $\$133.33 \times 2 = 266.66$ , entered as unearned income)
- FIP Grant:
- Divide the FIP grant by the number of people in the household, including Mr. B. Then multiply the result by the number of SNAP-eligible persons. ( $\$226$  divided by 3 = \$75.33;  $\$75.33 \times 2 = \$150.66$  unearned income, Mrs. B and the child's FIP)
  - Divide Mr. B's 1/3 of the FIP grant by the number of people in the household, including Mr. B. Then multiply the result by the number of SNAP-eligible members. ( $\$75.33$  divided by 3 = \$25.11;  $\$25.11 \times 2 = \$50.22$ , the countable share of Mr. B's FIP)
- Countable Unearned Income:
- Add the three amounts:  $\$266.66$  (2/3 of earned income) +  $\$150.66$  (2/3 of FIP grant) +  $\$50.22$  (2/3 of Mr. B's share of the FIP grant) =  $\$467.54$  countable unearned income

3. At application, the household consists of spouses Kelly and Alex and their two children. The worker does their NAC look-ups and finds a NAC match for Alex. An RFI is sent to the household to verify when Alex's SNAP benefits closed in the other state. They don't respond to the RFI. Alex is denied for failing to respond to the NAC match. Alex's income of \$1,000/month is prorated as follows:
- Subtract the earned income deduction from their total gross monthly income.  
( $\$1,000 \times .20 = \$200$ ,  $\$1,000 - \$200 = \$800$ )
  - Divide the \$800 by the number of people in the household, including Alex. (\$800 divided by 4 = \$200/person)
  - Disregard the portion from Alex and count the remainder as unearned income to the rest of the household.  
( $\$800 - \$200 = \$600$ )

### **Deductions**

Allow deductions for the eligible household as described below under the following categories of ineligible members. See [7-E, Income](#) for more information on handling and allowing deductions.

#### **Ineligible Students**

Do not allow any deduction for child support, dependent care, or shelter costs when an ineligible student pays the entire cost. Do allow a share of these costs for the eligible household members when the costs are shared with an ineligible student. If the actual amount paid by the eligible members is known, allow only that amount. If you cannot differentiate between the amounts paid by eligible members and ineligible students, prorate the expense and allow the amount attributable to the eligible members as a deduction.

Do not allow any deduction for utilities when an ineligible student pays the entire cost. Allow the eligible members the entire standard utility allowance if the household pays the entire cost or the ineligible student shares the cost. Use the applicable utility allowance for the expenses that the household (including the ineligible member) is responsible to pay.

#### **IPV, Work Registration, Fleeing Felons, Parole and Probation Violators**

People who are disqualified for intentional program violation or failure to meet mandatory work registration requirements, fleeing felons, and parole and probation violators are treated like eligible members when determining what deductions the eligible household is entitled to.

The eligible household is entitled to the entire household's amount of child support, dependent care, shelter costs, and medical expenses, even if the expenses are billed to or are in part or entirely paid by the ineligible person.

Mr. B is elderly and has allowable medical expenses. He cannot get SNAP benefits because he is disqualified for intentional program violation. Mr. B's medical expenses are allowed when calculating SNAP benefits for the eligible household.

**Ineligible Aliens, Ineligible ABAWDs, SSN Disqualifications, NAC Match Disqualifications**

Legal reference: 7 CFR 273.11(c)(2), 87 FR 59633

**Policy:** Households that include ineligible aliens, ineligible ABAWDs, or persons disqualified for failure to provide a social security number or failure to respond to a NAC match at application, recertification, or the addition of a household member are allowed either the full or a prorated share of deductions depending on the type of deduction and who is responsible for the expense.

**Procedure:** Determine whether a full or prorated share is allowed as follows:

◆ Do **not** prorate deductions for:

- Utility costs, whether an **eligible** or **ineligible** member pays or is responsible for paying them;
- Medical expenses of an eligible elderly or disabled member, whether an **eligible** or **ineligible** member pays or is responsible for paying them;
- Shelter care costs when an **eligible** member pays or is responsible for paying them;
- Dependent care costs when an **eligible** member pays or is responsible for paying them; or
- Child support paid by an **eligible** member.

Allow the full amount of these deductions.

◆ **Do** prorate deductions for:

- Shelter costs when an **ineligible** member pays for or is responsible for the expense;
- Dependent care costs when an **ineligible** member pays for or is responsible for the expense; and
- Child support paid by an **ineligible** member.

Allow the eligible household's prorated share of these deductions.

**Comment:**

- I. The household consists of Mr. and Mrs. X and their three children. Mrs. X is an ineligible alien. Mr. X is eligible and works. He is responsible and pays for the rent. Since Mr. X is a member of the eligible group and is responsible for the expense, the entire shelter expense is allowed.

2. Mr. and Mrs. Y have four children. Mr. Y is an ineligible alien. The SNAP eligible group consists of Mrs. Y and the children. Mr. Y is responsible and pays for the rent of \$600 and all utility expenses, including heat. The family is eligible for a prorated share of the rent and the entire big standard for utilities.

The amount allowable for rent is calculated as follows:

$\$600$  divided by 6 people (all household members) =  $\$100$

$\$100 \times 5$  people (the eligible household members) =  $\$500$ .

3. A child is the only eligible member. The only income in the household is the child support the mother receives. The child support is used to pay the household expenses.

Because the child support is the child's income, the child is paying all the expenses. The allowable deductions are not prorated because the eligible member pays the expense.

4. A mother receives FIP for her child. The mother is an ineligible alien for both FIP and SNAP. The only income in the household is the FIP. The FIP is used to pay the household expenses.

Because the FIP is the child's income, the child is paying all the expenses. The allowable deductions are not prorated because the eligible member pays the expense.

5. The household consists of Ms. H (an ineligible alien) and her citizen children Ali, Omar, and Zara. Ms. H explains that of her \$1,000/month verified mortgage expense, she pays \$800/month from her earnings and Ali (20 years old) is responsible to pay \$200/month from his earnings.

Because Ali is a citizen, his portion of the expense is not prorated. The \$800 portion Ms. H pays is prorated as:

$\$800$  divided by 4 people (all household members) =  $\$200$

$\$200 \times 3$  people (the eligible household members) =  $\$600$

Therefore, the household is entitled to a shelter deduction of:  $\$600$ /month (the prorated portion of Ms. H's expense) +  $\$200$  (Ali's portion) =  $\$800$ /month.

regular curriculum. Individuals enrolled in these special programs that are not part of the regular curriculum are not considered to be enrolled in an institution of higher education and therefore are not subject to student eligibility requirements. While students in these special programs are not required to meet student eligibility requirements, they may be exempt from work registration based on their participation in the school or training program. See [7-C,-Exemptions from Work Registration](#) for more information on how these programs may impact the client's MWR status.

When a student is an alien, require the student to verify alien status. If the student is an ineligible alien, do not apply student policies. Follow the policies that apply to ineligible aliens.

The following sections explain:

- [Nonfinancial eligibility \(student status\)](#)
- [Counting educational assistance as a resource](#)
- [Counting educational assistance as income](#)

### **Nonfinancial Eligibility**

Legal reference: 7 CFR 273.5, 273.1(b)

Students who are required to meet student eligibility criteria but who do not meet it are not eligible for SNAP. See [Ineligible Household Members](#) earlier in this chapter for treatment of the income and resources of ineligible students.

The following sections explain:

- [When students can be eligible](#)
- [The effects of student status](#)

### **Eligible Students**

Legal reference: 7 CFR 273.5(a), (b)(1), 441 IAC 65.26(234)

Students do **not** need to meet student eligibility criteria when they are:

- Under age 18.
- Aged 50 or over.
- Physically or mentally unfit for employment.
- Attending high school or a high school equivalency program.
- In an on-the-job-training program.
- Attending school less than half time.
- In a school or training program that is not an institution of higher education.
- A single parent enrolled in an institution of higher education on a full-time basis (as determined by the institution) and is responsible for the care of a child under 12. "Single parent" means a parent living with a child and not living with that child's other legal, or natural parent, or not living with a spouse.

All other students must meet at least one of these student eligibility criteria:

- Work at least 20 hours a week and be paid wages. When hours of work fluctuate, average the hours for a period of time that allows a reasonable estimate of the hours expected to be worked per week. Exceptions to working 20 hours a week may be made, such as when a student becomes ill or is excused from work because of final exams.
- Self-employed, working at least 20 hours a week and receiving gross weekly earnings at least equal to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours. When hours of work fluctuate, average the hours for a period of time that allows a reasonable estimate of the hours expected to be worked per week.
- Work, or anticipate work, in a state or federally financed work-study program during the regular school term.
- Responsible for the physical care of a dependent household member under the age of six.
- Responsible for the physical care of a household member under age 12 when circumstances indicate adequate child care is not available to allow the student to attend school and work at least 20 hours a week.
- Receiving a FIP grant, approved for FIP but not yet receiving it, or approved but not receiving a cash grant because the grant is under \$10.
- Placed in an institution of higher education through:
  - Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974, or
  - The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), formerly known as Workforce Investment Act (WIA), or
  - A state or local government employment and training program. Central Office has identified the following two programs, which are offered through all Iowa community colleges:
    - GAP
    - PACE (Pathways for Academic Career & Employment). Students must be eligible for PACE based on income, not the other PACE eligibility criteria.

There may be other programs that meet this criteria. If you become aware of a potential program, send it through SPIRS for a determination.

### **Student Status**

Legal reference: 7 CFR 273.5(b)(1) and (2), 273.7(b), 441 IAC 65.28(2)(h)

Consider a newly enrolled college student to be enrolled starting on the first day of the school term, no matter when the student registered for classes or paid to enroll.

Students retain their eligible or ineligible status during school vacations and breaks, including summer break, if they intend to register for the next normal school term. Summer school is not considered a normal school term.

Student eligibility status no longer applies when the student graduates, is suspended or expelled, drops out, or does not intend to register for the next normal term.

### **Resources**

Legal reference: 441 IAC 65.29(5)

Exclude from resources all financial assistance received for education or training that is excluded for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)-related Medicaid.

### **Income**

Legal reference: 441 IAC 65.29(6), Iowa Code Section 257.11B

Treat educational assistance the same whether a student is attending an institution of higher education or a school or program that is not an institution of higher education. Do not count as income any financial assistance received for education or training that is exempt for MAGI-related Medicaid.

In addition, regardless of how MAGI treats work study, treat it as follows for SNAP:

- Federally-funded work study is excluded.
- State-funded work study is excluded up to the amount ear-marked for educational expenses.

NOTE: Funds in a Students First Education Savings Account, established by the Students First Act which was signed into Iowa law on January 24, 2023, are excluded.