

### Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 441—Chapter 48  
“Promoting Awareness of the Benefits of a Healthy Marriage Program”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 234.6

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code section 234.6

#### *Public Hearing*

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

November 19, 2024  
2 to 3 p.m.

Microsoft Teams  
Meeting ID: 222 143 545 89  
Passcode: Ythqof

#### *Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Department of Health and Human Services no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Victoria L. Daniels  
321 East 12th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Phone: 515.829.6021  
Email: [compliance@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:compliance@hhs.iowa.gov)

#### *Purpose and Summary*

These proposed rules implement the Iowa promoting awareness of the benefits of a healthy marriage program (program). This program uses federal funds from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant. Eligibility for this program establishes categorical eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

This chapter was previously Division I of 441—Chapter 47.

#### *Analysis of Impact*

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**
  - **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**  
None were identified.
  - **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**  
Those eligible for the program will receive information on the benefits of a healthy marriage.
2. **Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**
  - **Quantitative description of impact:**  
None were identified.
  - **Qualitative description of impact:**  
These rules play an important role in the implementation of the program. Without these rules there would be no way to implement the program, or appeal rights for eligibility under this program.
3. **Costs to the State:**
  - **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

This program is always determined in conjunction with determination of eligibility for SNAP. The Department incurs personnel costs for team members to implement the SNAP program.

- **Anticipated effect on state revenues:**

There are no additional costs beyond those already appropriated.

**4. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:**

Without these rules, SNAP eligible families would not receive information on the benefits of a healthy marriage.

**5. Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:**

A less costly method has not been identified to achieve the purpose of this rulemaking.

**6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:**

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

None.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Some of the benefit can be achieved through employee manuals and agency procedure; however, additional structure and legal basis is needed for the eligibility determination.

*Small Business Impact*

**If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:**

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

**If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?**

There is no impact on small business.

*Text of Proposed Rulemaking*

ITEM 1. Adopt the following **new** 441—Chapter 48:

CHAPTER 48

PROMOTING AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF A HEALTHY MARRIAGE

**441—48.1(234) Definition.**

“SNAP” means the supplemental nutrition assistance program under 441—Chapter 65.

**441—48.2(234) Eligibility criteria.** Eligibility for the promoting awareness of the benefits of a healthy marriage program is always determined in conjunction with determination of eligibility for SNAP.

**48.2(1) Application.** There is no separate application for the program. Eligibility for the program is determined whenever the department determines a household's eligibility for SNAP.

**48.2(2) Resources.** There is no asset test for the program.

**48.2(3) Income.** The household's gross countable monthly income determined according to 441—Chapter 65 must be less than or equal to 160 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines for the household size. The income eligibility limits as described in this subrule are revised each October 1 to reflect the annual adjustment to the federal poverty guidelines.

**48.2(4) Otherwise eligible for SNAP.** The household must meet all eligibility criteria for SNAP except as provided in this rule. A household that includes a member who is currently disqualified from SNAP due to an intentional program violation is not eligible for the program.

**48.2(5) Minimum SNAP benefit.** The household must be eligible for a monthly SNAP benefit greater than zero. Households with a monthly SNAP benefit of zero are not eligible for the program.

**441—48.3(234) Notice and eligibility period.** A household that meets all of the eligibility criteria in 441—Chapter 47 will receive written notice of its eligibility for the promoting awareness of the benefits of a healthy marriage program.

**48.3(1) Written information.** Households determined eligible for the program will receive written information about the benefits of a healthy and stable marriage.

**48.3(2) Eligibility period.** A household that is determined eligible for the program will remain eligible for the program until the earlier of the following events:

- a.* The household fails to meet the eligibility criteria under 441—Chapter 47, or
- b.* The household's SNAP certification period under 441—Chapter 65 ends.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6.