

DATE: July 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Rescinding June 6, 2024, Memo on State Policy Options Related to Custodial and Non-Custodial Parent Cooperation with State Child Support Agencies (CSA)

TO: All SNAP State Agencies, All Regions

The child support program serves over 12 million children each year, bringing families closer to escaping poverty and decreasing the reliance on public assistance programs. Currently, too few single-parent families enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) receive child support at all, with even fewer receiving the full amount they deserve. The child support program has a strong track record of strengthening the financial well-being of children and families.

During the first Trump administration, the Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) published a memo encouraging States to opt to require custodial or non-custodial parents to cooperate with the State Child Support Agency (CSA) and disqualify individuals in arrears for child support from SNAP. However, on June 6, 2024, FNA published a subsequent memo discouraging State agencies from selecting these child support policy options.

The Trump administration has not wavered in its directive. Given the importance of child support in uplifting families, FNA is rescinding the 2024 memo and reissuing the May 1, 2019 memo (attached). FNA strongly encourages State agencies to not only review the 2019 memo, but also to evaluate and implement available opportunities to promote parental responsibility for the economic, social well-being, health, and stability of their children.

FNA appreciates State agencies' partnership in supporting families and helping them move out of poverty. Family resources should be the first line of defense before government intervention.

Thank you for your commitment to program integrity.

Sincerely,



Shiela Corley
Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Administration
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Attachment: "State Flexibilities Related to Custodial and Noncustodial Parents' Cooperation with State Child Support Agencies" (originally issued 5/1/2019)

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MAY 01 2019

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria VA 22302

SUBJECT: State Flexibilities Related to Custodial and Noncustodial Parents' Cooperation with State Child Support Agencies

TO: Regional Directors
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
All Regions

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is issuing this memorandum to alert all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) State agencies of the available State options and requirements related to child support cooperation, as a condition of eligibility for SNAP.

These options are provided under section 6 of the Food and Nutrition Act (the "Act"), 7 U.S.C. 2015 (2008) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.11. While these State options are long-standing SNAP policy, FNS stands ready to provide technical assistance to any State interested in implementing these flexibilities.

Disqualifying Custodial or Noncustodial Parents for Failure to Cooperate: Under sections 6(l) and (m) of the Act and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.11(o) and (p), State agencies may deny SNAP eligibility to a custodial or non-custodial parent of a child under the age of 18 if the individual does not cooperate with the State Child Support Agency, specifically:

- *Custodial Parents:* Section 6(l) of the Act provides State agencies with the option to disqualify an individual if they fail to cooperate with the Child Support Agency in establishing paternity of the child (if the child is born out of wedlock) and obtaining support for the child or the individual and the child. A State agency may determine that there is good cause for the individual's refusal to cooperate by taking into consideration circumstances in which cooperation may be against the best interest of the child.
- *Non-Custodial Parents:* Section 6(m) of the Act allows the State agency to determine a putative or identified *noncustodial parent* ineligible to participate in SNAP for refusal to cooperate in establishing paternity of the child (if the child is born out of wedlock) and providing support for the child. If the State Child Support Agency determines that the non-custodial parent is not cooperating in good faith, the State agency will determine whether non-cooperation constitutes a refusal or unwillingness to cooperate as opposed to an inability to cooperate. *Noncustodial parents* determined to have refused to cooperate are ineligible and State agencies do not have the ability to establish good cause.

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State agencies electing either or both of these two options may not require the payment of a fee or other costs for services provided as it relates to cooperation with the State Child Support Agency.

Disqualifying for Child Support Arrears: Section 6(n) of the Act and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.11(q) provide State agencies with the option to deny SNAP eligibility to an individual as a member of any household during any month that the individual is delinquent in any payment due under a court order for the support of a child of the individual. Exceptions include when the court allows the individual to delay payment or when the individual is complying with a payment plan approved by a court or the State Child Enforcement Program to provide support for the child of the individual.

State agencies interested in pursuing these options should reference SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.11(o), (p), and (q), along with the authorizing statutory language under sections 6(l), (m), and (n) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 2015(l), (m), (n)) for additional background on available State flexibilities.

Please distribute this memorandum to your State agencies and advise them to contact their respective Regional Office points of contact with any questions and for technical assistance. Regional Offices should contact Sasha Gersten-Paal at Sasha.Gersten-Paal@fns.usda.gov with any questions concerning this memorandum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lizbeth Silberman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lizbeth Silberman
Director
Program Development Division

May 1, 2019

The Honorable <Name>
Commissioner
SNAP State Agency
Address
City, State ZIP

Dear Commissioner <Name>:

I want to draw your attention to a memorandum sent to your State today by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) regarding State options for child support enforcement policy in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The child support program serves more than 15 million children each year, lifting more than one million people out of poverty entirely and moving millions more children closer to escaping poverty. Current statistics show that, since its creation, the child support program has disbursed nearly \$588 billion in needed child support, including \$27.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2017 alone. I encourage you to consider this opportunity to serve families in a more meaningful way.

Unfortunately, too few single-parent families enrolled in SNAP receive child support at all, with even fewer receiving the full amount they deserve. This not only leaves families without the support they deserve, but also increases their reliance on public assistance programs. The child support program has a strong track record of increasing the likelihood of collecting child support.

States have many opportunities to help parents assume responsibility for the economic, social well-being, health, and stability of their children. One such option is to require that custodial and non-custodial parents cooperate with State child support agencies as a condition of SNAP eligibility. This option brings States' SNAP policies in line with policies in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and the Medicaid program, and is long-standing SNAP policy.

While these State options are long-standing SNAP policy, FNS stands ready to provide technical assistance to any State interested in implementing these flexibilities. Increasing the number of States that implement child support cooperation requirements will benefit families, help non-custodial parents assume responsibility for the well-being and stability of their children, and provide more children with the support they deserve.

The Honorable <Name>

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I appreciate your partnership in helping SNAP families gain access to this critical nutrition program and support to move out of poverty. I look forward to working with you as we strive to better serve our participants and enhance our Program in meaningful and substantive ways.

Regards,

/s/

Brandon Lipps
Acting Deputy Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

Enclosure