

July - September 2021 Summary of Changes

Chapter	Passage	Summary
0600	0610.0501	Updated asset limit to \$3750
1610	1610.0200	Updated asset limit to \$3750
2000	2010.0201	Updated asset limit to \$3750
2400	2410.0351	Updated acceptable shelter and utilities verification to client statement, unless questionable

Technical changes and changes in non-substantive information may be excluded from this summary.

Listing of Amended Passages

0610.0501 Categorical Eligibility (FS)

Standard filing units are categorically eligible if they:

1. file a joint application for food stamps and TCA,
2. file for SSI benefits,
3. file for FS and SSI benefits,
4. have a TCA or SSI application pending and are denied food stamps but are later determined categorically eligible,
5. are SFUs in which all members receive income from TCA, RAP, or SSI, or
6. are SFUs in a food stamp household that does not contain a member disqualified for any one of the five reasons listed below.

These SFUs are eligible for food stamps without separate verification of assets, gross and net income limits, social security number, residency, and sponsored noncitizen status. Broad-Based Categorical Eligible SFUs must meet a gross income limit of 200% of the federal poverty level but have no asset test. If the SFU contains a member who is age 60 or over or meets the definition of food stamp disabled, the SFU must meet the gross income limit of 200% of the federal poverty level for the AG size. If the SFU does not meet the 200% income limit, the SFU must meet the net income limit of 100% of the federal poverty level for the AG size and the asset limit of **\$3750** ~~\$3500~~.

Standard filing units are not categorically eligible or broad-based categorically eligible if:

1. a member is disqualified for IPV,
2. a member is disqualified for employment and training requirements,
3. a member is disqualified for felony drug trafficking, including agreeing, conspiring, combining, or confederating with another person to commit the act committed on or after 8/22/1996,
4. a member is a fleeing felon, or
5. a member who committed certain crimes under federal or similar state law, after February 7, 2014, and who is not in compliance with their sentence term. These crimes include:
 - a. aggravated sexual abuse,
 - b. murder,
 - c. sexual exploitation and other abuse of children,
 - d. offense involving sexual assault, or
 - e. offense under state law similar to one of the above.

Prorate the food stamps for the initial month for AGs that file joint applications and are determined categorically eligible after a prior denial of food stamps. Begin the prorated period on the date of TCA eligibility or the date of the original food stamp application whichever is later.

Provide retroactive food stamps prorated from the application date to any potentially categorically eligible food stamp AG determined TCA eligible within the 30-day food stamp processing time. Reevaluate the original application at the SFU's request or when the Department becomes aware of the SFU's TCA and/or SSI eligibility.

Listing of Amended Passages

1610.0200 ASSET LIMITS (FS)

The asset limit is the maximum amount of liquid and/or nonliquid assets that an assistance group can retain and remain eligible for public assistance.

The total countable assets of the assistance group cannot exceed:

1. ~~\$2,500~~ **\$2,250** for assistance groups that do not include an elderly or disabled member;
or
2. ~~\$3,750~~ **\$3,500** for assistance groups that include a member(s) who is elderly or disabled. Elderly is defined as being age 60 or older. An individual may be considered elderly if they will be age 60 by the last day of the application month.

For categorically eligible households, countable assets are assumed to be within the FS asset limits.

2010.0201 Categorically Eligible Assistance Groups (FS)

A categorically eligible assistance group is one in which all members are receiving or are authorized to receive Temporary Cash Assistance or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits or a combination of Temporary Cash Assistance and SSI. A broad-based categorically eligible standard filing unit (SFU) is one that receives information about Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Maintenance of Effort funded services or benefits on an ACCESS Florida notice and does not contain a disqualified member. An individual is considered a recipient of Temporary Cash Assistance or SSI if the benefits have been authorized but not received, if the benefits are suspended or recouped, or if the benefits are not paid because they are less than a minimum amount.

Families that are receiving or are authorized to receive services through Healthy Families Florida are considered categorically eligible.

The assistance group cannot be considered categorically eligible for months in which an individual opts not to receive Temporary Cash Assistance, months that a SFU contains an ineligible or disqualified member or receives medical assistance only.

Individuals who are categorically eligible for food stamps are considered to have met gross and net income limits, asset limits, SSN requirements, and residency without further verification, unless questionable.

Broad-based categorically eligible SFUs must meet the 200% gross income limits. If the SFU contains a member who is age 60 or over or meets the definition of food stamp disabled, the SFU must meet the gross income limit of 200% of the federal poverty level for the AG size. If the SFU does not meet the 200% of the federal poverty income limit, the SFU must meet the net income limit of 100% of the federal poverty level for the AG size and the asset limit of ~~\$3750~~ **\$3500**.

2410.0351 Verification of Utility Expenses (FS)

~~Verification of utility expenses is required in accordance with the following provisions. Utilities must be verified on a one time only basis unless the assistance group has moved or reported a change that would potentially affect the utility allowance considered in the budget. The~~

New language in passages appear **blue** in color and ~~strike through~~ is used for deleted language.
The Introduction and Appendices are excluded.

Listing of Amended Passages

individual's statement is acceptable verification of shelter and utility expenses unless questionable. If questionable, the expenses must be verified.

Standard Utility Allowance: ~~The case record must contain verification of the utility used to incur the heating or cooling expense. If verification of the utility used for heating or cooling is not available due to the season, or because the assistance group has not lived in the residence long enough to incur the expense, refer to passage 2410.0347.~~

~~To obtain the SUA, the AG must verify the ability to incur heating or cooling costs. If verification is not received within 30 days, the eligibility specialist must determine the assistance group's eligibility and allotment without allowing the standard utility allowance. Record on CLRC the individual's failure to verify an expense resulted in the expense not being allowed in the food stamp budget. If the AG has verified other expenses, the eligibility specialist may allow the basic utility allowance, or telephone standard.~~

Basic Utility Allowance: ~~To use the basic utility allowance in computing the budget, the eligibility specialist must make an entry on CLRC to state the assistance group does not incur a heating or cooling expense but does incur at least two utility expenses. The case record must contain verification of other utility expenses. If verification of utility expenses is not available due to the billing cycle, or because the assistance group has not lived in the residence long enough to incur the expense, refer to paragraph 2410.0347.~~

~~If verification is not received within 30 days, the eligibility specialist must determine the assistance group's eligibility and allotment without allowing the basic utility allowance. Record on CLRC the individual's failure to verify a specific utility expense resulted in the expense not being allowed in the food stamp budget.~~

Telephone Standard: ~~To use the telephone standard in computing the budget, the eligibility specialist must make an entry on CLRC to state the assistance group incurs only a telephone expense. The case record must contain verification of the telephone expense. If verification of a telephone expense is not available because the assistance group has not lived in the residence long enough to incur the expense, refer to passage 2410.0347.~~

~~If verification is not received within 30 days, the eligibility specialist must determine the assistance group's eligibility and allotment without allowing the telephone standard. Record on CLRC the individual's failure to verify a telephone expense resulted in the expense not being allowed in the food stamp budget.~~

Deposit Receipt: ~~A utility deposit receipt is acceptable verification that an assistance group incurs an expense for that particular utility.~~

Utility Expenses for an Unoccupied Home: ~~The utility expenses of a home temporarily unoccupied because of employment or training away from the home, illness, or abandonment caused by a natural disaster or casualty loss are allowable. For expenses to be allowed, the assistance group must intend to return to the home and the current occupants of the home, if any, must not be claiming the shelter expenses for food stamp purposes. In addition, the home must not be leased or rented to another individual or family during the temporary absence of the assistance group. Verification as outlined above is required to claim the appropriate utility allowance.~~

The assistance group is not entitled to claim utility expenses in both their present setting and the unoccupied home. The eligibility specialist will include the greater of the two shelter expenses in the food stamp budget.