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1200.00.00 GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

This chapter presents general information about the following Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) programs, administered by the Division of Family Resources throughout 92 counties:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Section 1205);
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Cash Assistance) (TANF),
- Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), and
- Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT) (Section 1210.)

1205.00.00 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program(S)

The purpose of the SNAP Program is to assist eligible low income participants to obtain a more nutritious diet by increasing food purchasing power.

1205.05.00 LEGAL BASIS (S)

The legal basis for SNAP is the Food Stamp Act of 1977/Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, and the Food Security Act of 1965. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the federal agency which is responsible for administration of SNAP. This agency's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provides specific guidance to states concerning the SNAP Program.

1205.10.00 PROGRAM OVERVIEW (S)

Indiana uses an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system for issuance of SNAP benefits. The EBT system electronically distributes SNAP benefits on the Hoosier Works card which is similar to a debit or ATM card.

The Hoosier Works card is used to purchase eligible food items at retail stores authorized by USDA. The amount of benefits received is based on the AGs size and financial circumstances. These benefits are funded 100 percent by the federal government, and administrative costs are shared by the state and federal government.

1205.15.00 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (S)

SNAP eligibility is determined based on non-financial (residency, immigration status, household composition, etc.) and financial (income, resources) factors. Eligibility criteria is governed by federal regulation and state law.

1210.00.00 CASH ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT (C)

Cash Assistance programs are designed to provide financial assistance to individuals who meet specific program eligibility requirements.

IMPACT (Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training) assists clients who are receiving Cash Assistance and SNAP in becoming self sufficient and meeting the work requirements of the given program. IMPACT offers education and training programs to assist clients in becoming work ready, obtaining and maintaining employment.

Two federal programs, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), comprise the Cash Assistance Programs in the eligibility system:

- TANF provides financial assistance to dependent children and their parents or relatives who are deprived of financial support and who meet non-financial eligibility criteria.
- RCA provides financial assistance to refugee adults who have resettled in the United States. The purpose of the program is to provide for the effective resettlement of refugees and to assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.

1210.05.00 LEGAL BASIS (C, I)

The legal basis for the TANF cash assistance program is Title IV-A of the Social Security Act as amended by the Personal Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996. The Indiana Code (IC) provides authority for operating in Indiana, and the Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) contains specific rules about how the program is run in Indiana. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the federal agency responsible for the program.

The legal basis for the RCA program is Title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and the Refugee Act of 1980.

1210.10.00 PROGRAM OVERVIEW (C, I)

TANF cash assistance is funded through the federal TANF Block Grant which requires states to maintain financial support of other programs for low-income families in order to receive the complete grant amount.

The Refugee Act of 1980 set procedures for the administration of the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) program. RCA is funded completely by federal funds.

1210.15.00 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (C, I)

TANF eligibility is based on financial eligibility factors (income, resources) and non-financial requirements (residency, immigration status, etc.), as well as the eligible child criteria noted below:

An eligible child is:

- A dependent child under age 18 who is a citizen of the United States or an alien designated by Federal law as a 'qualified immigrant' (see 2402.20.00).
- Living with an eligible relative (as described in Section 3215.05.00) who is unable to provide adequate financial support for the child.

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) eligibility is determined based on refugee status as verified by the United States

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Additional non-financial, and financial (income, resources) factors are also considered. RCA is time limited and based on the individual's entry date into the United States.

IMPACT services are available to TANF and SNAP recipients. TANF IMPACT services are available for individuals included in the TANF grant, including zero grants, and those who are not included in the grant, when the following conditions are met:

- Whose 24 months of eligibility have expired, but the individual's TANF Assistance Group (AG) remains open, or
- Who are no longer eligible for TANF, but have not completed the On-the-Job Training (OJT) contract initiated for the individual while the TANF AG was open.