Demystifying SNAP EBT on College Campuses

May 2019
The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) advocates for policy solutions that reduce poverty, promote economic security, and advance racial equity.

Our areas include: Child Care, Income and Work Supports, Job Quality, Youth, Immigration and Postsecondary Education and Workforce Development
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I.  CLASP Introduction, Agenda Walk through
    •  Parker Gilkesson
II. Understanding SNAP Guidelines for College Students
    •  Carrie Welton
III. Destigmatizing Food Insecurity on College Campuses
    •  Yesenia Jimenez
IV. Establishing SNAP EBT on Your Campus
    •  David Nakamura
V.  Q & A
VI. Resources, Wrap up
Understanding SNAP
Guidelines for Students
Demystifying SNAP EBT on College Campuses

May 2019
Converging Challenges for Students

- Labor Market Demands
- Education System Barriers
- Social Stigma & Policy
- Equity & Educational Outcomes
- Basic Needs Barriers
Student Basic Needs Insecurity

Credit: College and University Basic Needs Insecurity: A National #RealCollege Survey Report, April 2019
The Case for Comprehensive Student Aid

Federal -- Explicitly for Ed & Training
- Training programs (e.g., TAA/CCCT/HPOG)
- Title IV Aid (includes Pell Grants, federal work-study)
- WIOA (Individual Training Accounts & WDB funds)
- SNAP Employment & Training
- Post-9/11 GI Bill

State/Local
- Grants (TOPS, Go Grants)
- State-funded work-study
- State FITC, Child Tax Credit

Private
- Student's personal resources
- Employers/hospitals
- Foundations
- Tribal resources

Institutional
- Scholarships
- Emergency aid

Federal -- Opportunities for Alignment
- TANF
- SNAP
- Education Tax Credits
- Medicaid
- Child Care Subsidies
- Public Housing Assistance
A recent report from the GAO estimated that among potentially eligible students with low incomes, 57 percent did not receive SNAP.
General SNAP Eligibility

Income and Asset limits
- 1 person: $1,326
- 3 people: $2,252
- Assets up to: $2,250 in cash savings or vehicles over $4,650 market value

Household Qualifications
- Living and preparing food together
- Almost always includes spouses and children under age 22
- Different rules for seniors

Immigration Status
- U.S citizen
- Lawfully present non-citizens
- Some other non-citizens under age 18 in limited circumstances

Benefit Amount
1 person:
- Max $192
- Average $134
3 people:
- Max $504
- Average $378
Who is considered a student?

Less than half time = not a “student”

At least half time = qualifies for an “exemption”
SNAP and Student Eligibility

- Receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance or services
  - Age 17 or younger or age 50 or older
  - Responsible for a dependent child under the age of 6
  - Responsible for a dependent child between the ages of 6 & 12 for whom you have trouble securing child care
  - Single parent enrolled full-time & responsible for a dependent child age 12 or under
  - Participates in a state or federally-funded work study program
  - Participates in an on-the-job training program
  - Works at least 20 hours a week in paid employment
  - In school through a state or federally-approved employment and training program
  - Unable to work for health reasons

Massachusetts has determined that students receiving a MASSGrant, funded by TANF dollars, eligible for SNAP under this exemption.

California permits students who are approved for work-study, and anticipate taking a work-study job during the semester, to qualify for SNAP under this exemption.

Pennsylvania issued new guidance that ensures students enrolled in a career and technical program as defined by Perkins qualify for SNAP through this exemption.
Other Eligibility Criteria

- Special criteria for those experience homelessness
- If attending less than half-time, a student could be subject to SNAP’s work requirement
- If receiving more than half of their meals through a campus meal plan, not eligible for SNAP
- Could be eligible if receiving TANF cash assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or some other forms of general assistance
- Also, if a student or their family received one of several public benefits during two previous calendar years including this information on the FAFSA application may qualify them for an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of zero or the Simplified Needs Test (NST), which disregards asset information
## Institutional Engagement

**Low**

Include in existing activities, communications, and resources, such as:

- Syllabi language
- Award letter notifications
- Information in supportive services
- Promote via social media accounts

**High**

Dedicated time and resources, such as:

- Paid staff navigators
- DHS / community partnerships
- Establish a campus food banks
- Emergency aid funds
- Surveys or new data collection
EBT on Campus

Campus can foster a culture of support and engagement by leveraging public benefits to improve persistence and completion

.....turning it over to Yesenia....
Destigmatizing Food Insecurity on College Campuses

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Stigmatization of Poverty in the US

• Misconceptions that people are:
  • Lazy
  • Inadequately skilled
  • Individual deficiencies
  • Cultural deficiencies, etc
Stigmatization of Poverty in the US

Misconceptions that people are:

- Lazy
- Inadequately skilled
- Individually deficient
- Cultural deficiency
Creating Safe Spaces

• Basic Needs Center
  – Co-locating services
    • One stop for food or SNAP assistance
    • Housing assistance
    • Emergency funds assistance
    • Transportation assistance
    • Health Insurance assistance
Developing Positive Messaging Around Food Benefits

Stigmatizing language

• “poor”
• “impoverished”
• “food stamps”
• “needy”

Use non-stigmatizing / neutral language

• “nutritional assistance”
• “Financial aid for food”
• “Holistic student wellness”
Get the Word Out!

Student **Outreach is crucial!**

Information about food resources should be posted on:

- Financial Aid Offices
- Campus Food Pantry
- Campus Website
- Student Center
- Library
- Farmers/Mobile Markets
- Dining Hall(s)
- Convenience store(s)
Several colleges currently receive SNAP EBT payments including both public and private colleges in at least seven states:

- California
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Pennsylvania
- Wisconsin
UC Davis – Aggie Compass
Advancing Educational Equity

Reducing Stigma around food benefits helps more students learn about and enroll in the SNAP program.
Establishing SNAP EBT on Your Campus
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Who Do I Contact About Starting SNAP EBT on Campus?

• Good to start with data on food insecurity
• Excellent opportunity for student / peer collaboration
  – At HSU, we had the OhSNAP! group to work with
• Need support from campus food provider
  – They will need to apply and manage the program
  – Potentially change and manage inventory
How Does a Campus Qualify for SNAP EBT?

- Assess your campus venues for eligibility
- USDA Program / SNAP
- See attached Tip Sheet
- Go to the retailer information
- Three of four staple food categories for “continuous sale”
Now We’re Approved, Now What?

- Accounting and IT will need to be involved for back of house work
  - Integration with POS and accounting systems
- USDA Provides Excellent Resources
  - Cashier training videos
- Monitoring EBT Eligible Items
Student Enrollment for SNAP EBT?

- OhSNAP! Peer advocacy and resource program
- Funded by County grant for low enrolled areas
- Work with students to access SNAP
- Can help with issues around stigma
- Nutrition, cooking, shopping, gardening
- Encourage advocacy for changes in eligibility requirements that will benefit students
How Much is SNAP EBT Used?

• It has been as much as 9.9% of total cash sales
• Estimated 11% of student cash sales
• Average ticket is $7.50
• Average 40 – 50 transactions per day
• Likely means these are students who are buying single meals while on campus
Resources

- **SNAP & Students Fact Sheet**
  by CLASP

- **CCC EBT Guidebook**
  by California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office

- **Tips For Establishing EBT on Your Campus**
  by CSU Student Wellness & Basics Needs Initiative

- **Family Friendly Campus Toolkit**
  by Endicott College