



SNAP 201-6 Group Homes

References:	7 CFR 273.1(f), 273.11(f)
Overview:	<u>GENERAL RULE</u> -- Residents of group homes who are blind or disabled (SNAP 0-4) may be eligible to receive SNAP benefits. The group home must be a public or private nonprofit residential setting that serves no more than 16 residents.
Policy:	<p>GROUP HOME HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION</p> <p>Residents of group homes may apply either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On their own behalf; NOTE: When a resident applies on their own behalf, the household size can include one or more members. 2. Through the use of an authorized representative designated by the group home or chosen by the resident. NOTE: When a group home authorized representative applies on a resident's behalf, the household size is one.
	<p>GROUP HOME RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The group home staff determines which residents require an authorized representative and which residents can apply on their own behalf. The determination is based on the resident's physical and mental ability to handle his/her own affairs. 2. The group home must act as the authorized representative for residents who cannot apply on their own behalf. As the authorized representative, the group home: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. is responsible for reporting changes according to the household's reporting requirements; b. is responsible for any misrepresentation or intentional program violation that it knowingly commits in the resident's eligibility determination; c. assumes liability for loss or misuse of SNAP benefits held on behalf of residents; and, d. assumes liability for all over issuances occurring while serving the household as an authorized representative.
	<p>SHELTER EXPENSE</p> <p>The group home is responsible to provide verification of the household's current shelter expense. The OPA Case Manager manually calculates the allowable shelter expense and documents in case notes how it was calculated. The shelter expense is determined as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The group home room expense that can be separately identified is the allowable shelter expense. 2. If the group home room and meal expense cannot be separately identified, the amount of the payment which exceeds the maximum food stamp allotment for the number of persons in the household (Thrifty Food Plan - TFP) is the shelter expense. In addition, if the resident has earnings from a sheltered workshop applied to the payment of room, 20 percent (.2) of the portion of earnings applied to room and board is deducted to determine the shelter expense. This shelter calculation is not associated with the income calculation.

	<p>3. If a group home resident makes a single payment for the individual's care, expenses for room, meals and medical should be separately identified to the extent possible. If the expenses cannot be separately identified, the shelter expense is determined by deducting the following from the single payment made to the group home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any identifiable medical expenses (this amount allowed as a medical deduction); b. Any amount returned to the resident for personal use; c. 20% (.2) of the portion of earnings that are applied to the room expenses; and, d. The maximum SNAP allotment for the number of persons in the household.
	<p>UTILITY DEDUCTION Households residing in a group home are not entitled to the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA). However, if telephone charges are separately identifiable from other charges, the resident may claim the expense as a shelter cost. The telephone charge must be over and above the normal room and board charge. The Telephone Standard Allowance (TSA) of \$37 is allowed as a shelter expense regardless if the TSA is more than the actual telephone charge.</p>
Date Revised	May 2015