



SNAP 201-4 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION Boarders

Supersedes: FM/FS 201-4 (04/01/2010)

Reference: 7 CFR 273.1(c)

Overview:

Boarders are individuals to whom a household furnishes lodging and meals. Boarders cannot claim separate household status to receive SNAP benefits on their own case. Boarders, who are not paying a reasonable amount for shelter, are required filing unit members of the household providing the room and board ([SNAP 201-1 Household Composition](#)). Boarders, who are paying a reasonable amount for shelter, can either be included or excluded from the filing unit of the household providing the room and board. If excluded, the boarder(s) still cannot receive SNAP benefits on their own case.

REASONABLE MONTHLY PAYMENT:

When the amount paid for meals can be distinguished from the amount paid for lodging, only the amount paid for meals is evaluated to determine if the payment is reasonable. If the amount paid for meals is inseparable from that paid for lodging, the total payment is evaluated. The payment for meals must be made in cash. A reasonable monthly payment shall be one of the following:

1. More than two meals daily. Boarders whose board arrangement is for more than two meals a day shall pay an amount equal to or exceeding the maximum monthly SNAP allotment for the appropriate number of boarders.
2. Two or fewer meals daily. Boarders whose board arrangement is for two meals or fewer each day shall pay an amount which equals or exceeds two-thirds of the maximum monthly SNAP allotment for the appropriate number of boarders.

EXCLUDED FROM BOARDER STATUS:

The following are required filing unit members and cannot have boarder status:

1. A spouse of a member of the household.
2. Children under 18 years of age, if under the parental control of an adult household member.
3. Parents who reside with their natural, adopted, or stepchildren if the child is under 22 years of age.
4. Children, under age 22, if residing with their parents.

BOARDING HOUSES:

Residents of commercial boarding houses are not eligible for SNAP benefits. The proprietor's household may participate, separate and apart from the residents, if otherwise eligible. A boarding house is defined as either of the following:

1. An establishment licensed as a commercial enterprise and offering meals and lodging for compensation, or
2. In communities which have no licensing requirements, a commercial establishment offering meals and lodging for compensation with the intent to make a profit.

NOTE: The number of residents has no effect on whether the establishment is or is not a boarding house.

INCOME AND RESOURCES OF BOARDERS:

Do not count income and resources of a boarder to determine eligibility of a household **unless** the household chooses to include the boarder as a member. The amount of the payment that a boarder, who is not considered a member of the SNAP household, gives to the household for the boarder services is treated as self-employment income to the household ([SNAP 503-1 Self Employment](#)).

Effective Date: July 20, 2022