Administrative Rule Analysis

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Rule Set No.: 2023-041 HS
Submitted to JCAR on: 6/21/2024

Department: Health and Human Services
Agency: Economic Stability Administration
Enabling Statute: Social Welfare Act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.6 et seq.

Analysis Complete to: 8/15/2024

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULES

The federal government provides Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to eligible low-income families to supplement monthly grocery costs – the state-level program that administers the distribution of SNAP funds is known as the Food Assistance Program (FAP). Current state policy requires families applying for FAP benefits obtain child support payments whenever applicable to the case. The intent is to ensure families are accessing all of the resources they are eligible for before distributing public resources. In some instances, cooperating with child support requirements would incur negative externalities (e.g., in cases of domestic violence/abuse).

The federal government does not require states mandate cooperation with child support for the distribution of SNAP benefits. This rule change would remove the cooperation requirement, but still allow eligible beneficiaries to seek child support at their individual discretion.

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED RULES

This rule change would incur either no or negligible costs on state and local units of government, but would increase federal costs relative to the increase in eligible families that choose to apply following the revision. As of June 2024, the department notes that 14,560 beneficiaries have been disqualified from FAP benefits due to child support non-cooperation.

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