



## Policy *SNAP*-shot Child Support



DHS defines child support *being paid* as court-ordered child support, paid to a non-custodial child. Child support being paid that is in arrears (late payments being made currently) count toward that payment.

DHS considers child support *being received* as income regardless of its source or whether it is court-ordered.

### **DHS will deduct the amount of child support being paid from the income of the applicant.**

This income exclusion may make an applicant eligible for SNAP benefits or may increase the amount of SNAP benefits for that applicant. Child support being paid is deducted by DHS to determine the gross income.

**NOTE:** Child support being paid without a court order is not excluded.

#### **Example of child support paid**

$$\begin{array}{r} \$1,100 \text{ (your gross income)} \\ - \$100 \text{ (child support)} \\ = \$1,000 \text{ "new gross income"} \end{array}$$

### **DHS will count money received as a child support payment as income.**

Child support payments being received by an applicant household will always count as part of their monthly income.

**NOTE:** Child support received always counts as income even if it is not court ordered.

#### **Example of child support received**

$$\begin{array}{r} \$1,500 \text{ (your gross income)} \\ + \$250 \text{ (child support)} \\ = \$1,750 \text{ "new gross income"} \end{array}$$

### **What if there is a court order to pay child support isn't being honored?**

Someone who is supposed to pay child support but is not paying it will not have their court ordered child support amount deducted from his/her income.

If child support is supposed to be received, DHS will be able to see the court order in their computer system and will count the support amount to be paid as part of the household's income. If court-ordered child support is not being received, the applicant should tell their caseworker. The caseworker will be able to confirm that it is not being received and it will not be counted as part of the household's income.

### **Does SNAP eligibility require cooperation with the Office of Child Support Enforcement?**

No, households can receive SNAP benefits without giving the name of the non-custodial parent to the office of child support enforcement.

If you have questions about this policy and how it may impact your SNAP case, call the

**URI SNAP Outreach Project**

**1-866-306-0270**

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