

# Simplified Assistance For the Elderly (SAFE)



## SAFE Fact Sheet



### Who may be eligible for SAFE?

Individuals must meet **ALL** of these criteria:

- Age 60 or older
- Receive SSI
- A resident of KY
- Not living in an institution
- Purchasing and preparing food separately from other people living in the home
- Either single, widowed, divorced, or separated (for a 1 person household) **-OR-** Married and spouse is receiving SSI and meets the other SAFE criteria (for a 2 person household)

### What is the difference between SAFE and regular SNAP?

- Since all households eligible for SAFE receive SSI, all verification and information is obtained from SDX files; **no verification is required** from the household.
- **No face to face interview** is required for SAFE
- **Income and deductions are not considered** when determining SAFE allotment amounts – **only shelter expenses** of rent and/or mortgage
- **No changes** are required to be reported for a SAFE case
- SAFE households are certified for **36 months**
- SAFE cases are **handled by NAB** in Central Office
- All households receiving SAFE receive a standardized amount of benefits
- Potentially eligible households have the choice of **either** regular SNAP benefits or SAFE

### Which would benefit the household more, SAFE or SNAP?

**Regular SNAP benefits would benefit the household more if:**

- A **one**-person household has **shelter** (rent/mortgage) expenses that **exceed \$280.00** per month; or
- A **two**-person household has **shelter** (rent/mortgage) expenses that **exceed \$310.00** per month; or
- The household (1 or 2 person) has **medical expenses greater than \$35.00** per month

# SAFE Fact Sheet Continued

## What is the procedure for a SAFE application?

- A nightly match with the Social Security Administration is completed through SDX to identify SSI recipients who are potentially eligible for SAFE. A **computer generated form SF-1**, SAFE Application, is mailed to these individuals. A return envelope is mailed with every SAFE application.
- Applicants return completed applications to the Division of Family Support, Nutrition Assistance Branch (NAB). If the initial application is not received and entered on Worker Portal within **30 days** from the date it is sent, the individual will automatically receive a second application. If the individual does not return the second application, no more applications will be automatically sent.
- Applications **must be processed within 30 days** from the date the application is received in NAB as follows:
  1. The date of application is the date the SF-1 is received in NAB.
  2. Expedited services do **not** apply to SAFE applications.
  3. SAFE benefits are **not prorated**.
  4. SAFE applicants are not required to be interviewed. Information from SDX and form SF-1 is used to process the application.
  5. Income Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) matches or any other computer matches are **not** completed on SAFE applicants.

**If the SAFE application is received in the local office, scan and email the SAFE application to [SAFE@ky.gov](mailto:SAFE@ky.gov)**

**Evaluate individuals applying for SNAP for potential SAFE.**

**Take the application for regular SNAP** even if it appears that they MAY be eligible for SAFE benefits. **DO NOT refuse to let an individual apply for regular SNAP** if they want to apply.