

Social Welfare and Policy

Activity Journal #7

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This week's assignment was interesting, I'm aware of what SNAP is as; many of my clients in preventive benefit from it. I have never thought about going through the experience of seeing if I would be found eligible. In my family growing up and in many of the Caribbean immigrant communities expecting benefits from the government in form of snap or cash assistance is frowned upon. In completing the benefit estimator I inputted information closely related to my current family household. So inputted a family of 4 people and I played around with the amount that was coming in monthly. I put \$4000 coming in monthly with \$1600 going out for rent and \$1300 going out for childcare. The Snap benefit amount that I would receive would be \$614. I then changed the amount coming to \$4500 and kept the same amount of household member and the expenses. The Snap benefit was \$471. So the more you make the less SNAP benefits you can receive, I then changed the household composition to 3 people while keeping the incoming amount for the family at \$4000, the monthly rent at \$1600 and childcare at \$1300; the result was that I was found to be ineligible for SNAP. So I then reduced amount of income coming in to \$3000 instead and kept the same 3 family household and was found eligible for SNAP and was awarded \$651. I then continued to change the family composition and increased the household to a family of 8 people to represent a family I am currently providing preventive services to. The result was that a family of 8 people could potentially receive SNAP in the amount of \$1386 if they were to bring in \$4000 monthly with the expenses of rent at \$1600 and childcare at \$1300 monthly. One thing that I noticed on the benefit estimator is that in giving the total amount that a family could receive they prefaced that a family "may" receive this amount meaning that could receive less or the might not receive anything at all. The family of eight that I mentioned before that I am working with; on paper should be able to receive benefits however as it currently stands they are not being found eligible to

receive any benefits and have an income below \$3000 coming in monthly. The family requested a fair hearing but is still waiting to be given a date to speak with someone and find out what the issue is. The family is need of support but is having difficulty attaining it even with myself advocating for them; it would seem that those who work within the SNAP system are just referring back to the system as if it cannot be wrong but clearly there is something off if a family in need who does fit the criteria to get support cannot.