ATTACHMENT 7 TO POLICY LETTER 20-01
SUBJECT: CRYPTOCURRENCIES, DIGITAL CURRENCIES, BITCOIN
REFERENCE: 273.8(c)(1); 273.10(b)
CATEGORIES: RESOURCES, INCOME

Cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Litecoin, and other blockchain-based assets are becoming increasingly prevalent forms of value and currency storage mechanisms. For SNAP purposes, how are we to treat these digital assets?

1. Would we consider cryptocurrencies as resources for SNAP?

a. Yes, cryptocurrencies are considered liquid resources for SNAP under 7 CFR 273.8(c)(1).

2. Since cryptocurrencies are resources for SNAP eligibility purposes, which amount would be used for the value of the resource: the original investment from the client, the exchange rate for when they access the funds, or another value?

a. For the purposes of determining SNAP eligibility, the value of available resources is determined at the time of interview per 7 CFR 273.10(b). The value of digital currencies should be determined at the time the household is interviewed. If the virtual currency is listed on an exchange, the value should be determined by converting the currency into USD in a reasonable and consistent manner. FNS recommends that the State value the currency using the exchange rate listed on the exchange that the currency is stored in. For example, if a Bitcoin is purchased or held on the "Coinbase" exchange, the State agency should use the rate listed on that exchange. If the digital currency is not held on an exchange, the State may designate an exchange to be used for this purpose by staff across the State. Additionally, in accordance with 7 CFR 273.2(f)(6), the State should document the website URL, the exact exchange rate at the time of interview, the amount of digital currency the household owns and a screenshot of the exchange site the client is using.

SOURCE: Email from National Office dated 09/25/2019