




FAMILY INDEPENDENCE ADMINISTRATION

James K. Whelan, Executive Deputy Commissioner

Stephen Fisher, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Office of Procedures

POLICY BULLETIN #14-109-ELI

OCTOBER 2014 THRIFTY FOOD PLAN CHANGES FOR NYSNIP HOUSEHOLDS

Date: October 2, 2014	Subtopic(s): NYSNIP
<p> This procedure can now be accessed on the FIAweb.</p> <p>See PB #14-68-ELI for the SUA eligibility changes.</p>	<p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform Non Cash Assistance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NCA SNAP) Center staff of the changes in the New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP) standardized benefit levels due to the annual changes in the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). The changes in the benefit levels are effective October 1, 2014.</p> <p>In addition, reductions in benefits resulting from changes in the eligibility to receive a heating/cooling Level I standard utility allowance (SUA) that previously only affected those NYSNIP households that had budgets authorized effective for the 7/A/14 cycle or later, will now affect more NYSNIP households as a result of the mass re-budget authorization date of 10/A/14.</p> <p>The SUA eligibility changes eliminated the receipt of an automatic heating/cooling Level I SUA based solely upon reasonable anticipation that a household would receive a Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefit within the next twelve months. As a result of this change, lower standardized benefit levels were created for certain NYSNIP households.</p> <p><u>NYSNIP Shelter Type Codes 94 and 95</u></p> <p>The NYSNIP standardized benefit levels for all households with Shelter Type Codes 94 (Household Eligible for Full SNAP SUA – High Shelter Cost) and 95 (Household Eligible for Full SNAP SUA – Low Shelter Cost) will increase to \$194 effective October 1, 2014.</p>

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE?
Call 718-557-1313 then press 3 at the prompt followed by 1 or
send an e-mail to *FIA Call Center Fax* or fax to: (917) 639-0298

NYSNIP Shelter Type Codes 96 and 97

Shelter Type Codes **96** and **97** that qualify for the heating/cooling SUA

The NYSNIP standardized benefit level for households that qualify for the heating/cooling SUA will increase to \$194 effective October 1, 2014.

The NYSNIP standardized benefit level for households that do not qualify for the heating/cooling SUA are as follows:

Shelter Type Code **96** that do not qualify for the heating/cooling SUA

- Shelter Type Code **96** where the household receives SSI only, the NYSNIP standardized benefit level will be \$31.
- Shelter Type Code **96** where the household receives SSI and other income, the NYSNIP standardized benefit level will be \$22.

Shelter Type Code **97** that do not qualify for the heating/cooling SUA

- Shelter Type Code **97** where the household receives SSI only or SSI with other income, the NYSNIP standardized benefit level will be \$16.

Households that had a new budget authorized for the 7/A/14 cycle or later, will see their standardized benefit increased to the levels above while households that have not had a new budget authorized for the 7/A/14 cycle or later, will see their standardized benefit decreased to the levels above.

NYSNIP Shelter Type Code 98

Households that had a new budget authorized for the 7/A/14 cycle or later, will see their standardized benefit increase to \$16 effective October 1, 2014.

See [PB #14-82-ELI](#)

Households that have not had a new budget authorized for the 7/A/14 cycle or later, will see their standardized benefit decrease to \$16 effective October 1, 2014.

The NYSNIP benefit levels are listed on the Guide to SNAP Budgeting (**W-204G**).

The NYSNIP benefit levels effective October 1, 2014 are as follows:

	<u>SSI only</u>	<u>SSI and other income</u>
Shelter Type Code 94	\$194	\$194
Shelter Type Code 95	\$194	\$194
Shelter Type Code 96	\$194	\$194
Shelter Type Code 96 (No SUA)	\$ 31	\$ 22
Shelter Type Code 97	\$194	\$194
Shelter Type Code 97 (No SUA)	\$ 16	\$ 16
Shelter Type Code 98	\$ 16	\$ 16

State notice

The State mailed the Mass Notice of Intent to Change SNAP (see **Attachment A**) to NYSNIP households that will incur a decrease in their SNAP benefits because they are no longer eligible to have the heating/cooling SUA used in their SNAP benefit calculation.

System changes

The Welfare Management System (WMS) has been programmed to reflect the NYSNIP benefit changes. Most cases were rebudgeted centrally through a mass rebudget on September 21, 2014. Cases that were rebudgeted have a 10/A/14 budget effective date.

Effective October 1, 2014

References:

ABEL Transmittal 14-3

[GIS 14 TA/DC033](#)

[GIS 14 TA/DC023](#)

Related Items:

[PB #14-68-ELI](#)

[PB #14-82-ELI](#)

[PB #14-103-OPE](#)

[PD #14-23-ELI](#)

Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) Changes
Changes in NYSNIP Standardized Benefit Levels


Revisions to the Guide to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Budgeting (W-204G)

October 2014 Changes in SNAP Standards

Attachment:

Attachment A

Mass Notice of Intent to Change SNAP
October 2014/NYC

 Please use Print on Demand to obtain copies of forms.

CENTER F-15
233 SCHERMERHORN ST., 2ND FLOOR
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

New York State
Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance



**MASS NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE SNAP
OCTOBER 2014/NYC**

Case Number:
Loc. Off./Unit/Worker:

General Telephone No. for
Questions or Help: 718-722-4009

Dear SNAP Recipient:

You are receiving this notice because you receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits as a participant in the New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP), **and**

- you either do not incur a separate bill or charge for heating or air conditioning costs, **and** you have not received Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits of more than \$20 during the month this letter is dated or during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months, **or**
- you have not provided any information to your local social services district about your shelter costs or utility costs since your current SNAP case opened.

If you do not incur a separate bill or charge for heating or air conditioning costs, **and** you have not received a HEAP benefit of more than \$20 during the month this letter is dated or during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months, then **due to a change in federal law** (Section 4006 of the Agricultural Act of 2014), you are no longer eligible to have the Heating/Air Conditioning Standard Utility Allowance (HCSUA) used in your SNAP benefit calculation. As a result, **beginning October 1, 2014, your SNAP benefits will decrease.**

If your monthly shelter costs (rent, mortgage, etc.) are **more than \$242**, your only income is SSI, and your monthly SNAP benefit was \$189, then **beginning October 1, 2014 your monthly SNAP benefit will be \$31.**

If your monthly shelter costs (rent, mortgage, etc.) are more than \$242, you receive other income (such as Social Security Disability income or have earnings) in addition to SSI, and your monthly SNAP benefit was \$189, then **beginning October 1, 2014 your monthly SNAP benefit will be \$22.**

If your monthly shelter costs are **\$242 or less**, beginning October 1, 2014, your monthly SNAP benefit will be \$16.

Also, if you are a SNAP recipient participating in NYSNIP and you have not provided any information to your local social services district about your shelter costs or utility costs since your current SNAP case opened, then beginning October 1, 2014, your monthly SNAP benefit will be \$16.

If you do incur a separate bill or charge for heating costs, air conditioning costs, electricity, cooking gas or other utility cost from a utility or from your landlord, or if you or someone you live with has received a HEAP payment of more than \$20 during the month this letter is dated or during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months, you might be eligible to have the Heating/Air Conditioning SUA or Utility SUA used in your SNAP benefit calculation and may be eligible for more SNAP benefits. If so, please contact the New York City Human Resources Administration office at the number on this letter.

If you think we made a mistake in figuring your October SNAP benefits due to the above noted changes, you may ask for a state fair hearing, *within 90 days of when your October 2014 SNAP benefits become available*. You can ask for a fair hearing by writing to: Office of Administrative Hearings, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, P.O. Box 1930, Albany New York 12201; Faxing (518) 473-6735; on-line by requesting a form at: <http://www.otda.ny.gov/oah/forms.asp>; or by calling toll free: 1-800-342-3334.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE: If you think that you need a lawyer to assist you with this problem, you may be able to get a lawyer at no cost to you by contacting your local Legal Aid Society or other legal advocate group.

**PREAVISO GENERAL SOBRE CAMBIOS EN SUBSIDIO SNAP
OCTUBRE 2014 / NYC**

Estimado(a) beneficiario(a) de SNAP:

Le enviamos este aviso porque usted recibe el subsidio del Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP) como participante en el proyecto titulado Proyecto de Mejora Nutricional del Estado de Nueva York (NYSNIP), y usted, ya sea:

- No tiene facturas o cargos por separado de calefacción o aire acondicionado, y no ha recibido un Subsidio de Energía para el Hogar (HEAP) por un monto mayor de \$20 en el mes de la fecha de esta carta o en los últimos doce (12) meses, **o bien**;
- Usted no ha suministrado datos a la oficina local de servicios sociales del distrito pertinente gastos de alojamiento o servicios públicos desde que su caso actual de SNAP se abrió recientemente.

Si no tiene facturas o cargos por separado de calefacción o aire acondicionado, y no ha recibido un Subsidio de Energía para el Hogar (HEAP) por un monto mayor de \$20 en el mes de la fecha de esta carta o en los últimos doce (12) meses, a consecuencia de una **modificación** en la **reglamentación federal** (Sección 4006 de la Ley sobre Agricultura de 2014), usted ya no es apto(a) para que se tome en consideración el Subsidio Estándar de Servicios Públicos (HCSUA) en el cálculo de su subsidio SNAP. Como consecuencia, **a partir del 1º de octubre de 2014, su subsidio SNAP disminuirá.**

Si sus gastos mensuales por alojamiento (alquiler, hipoteca, etc.) sobrepasan los \$242, su único ingreso es SSI, y su subsidio mensual SNAP era de \$189; comenzando el 1º de octubre de 2014, su subsidio mensual SNAP será de \$31.

Si sus gastos mensuales por alojamiento (alquiler, hipoteca, etc.) sobrepasan los \$242, recibe otro ingreso (tal como Seguro Social por Incapacidad o percibe ingresos) además de SSI, y su subsidio mensual SNAP fue de \$189; comenzando el 1º de octubre de 2014, su subsidio mensual SNAP será de \$22.

Si sus gastos mensuales por alojamiento son de \$242 o menos, comenzando el 1º de octubre de 2014, su subsidio mensual SNAP será de \$16.

Además, si usted es un beneficiario de subsidio SNAP que participa en el programa NYSNIP, y no ha suministrado ningún dato a su departamento local de servicios sociales del distrito pertinente a los gastos de alojamiento o servicios públicos desde que su caso actual de SNAP se abrió recientemente; comenzando el 1º de octubre de 2014, su subsidio mensual SNAP será de \$16.

Si tiene una factura o cargos por separado de calefacción, aire acondicionado, electricidad, gas para cocinar u otro cobro por servicio público proveniente de una compañía de servicios públicos o arrendador; o si usted o una de las personas que viven con usted ha recibido un pago de subsidio HEAP por un monto mayor de \$20 en el mes de la fecha de esta carta o en los últimos doce (12) meses, se podrá utilizar la asignación SUA para calefacción / aire acondicionado o asignación SUA para servicios públicos, en el cálculo de su subsidio SNAP y podrá recibir un aumento de subsidio SNAP. De ser así, comuníquese con la oficina de Recursos Humanos de la Ciudad de Nueva York (*New York City Human Resources Administration*) al número indicado en esta carta.

Si cree que hemos cometido un error en el cálculo del monto del subsidio SNAP para el mes de octubre según los cambios antes mencionados, puede solicitar una audiencia imparcial estatal dentro de *90 días contados a partir de la fecha en octubre cuando el subsidio SNAP es acreditado a su cuenta*. Puede solicitar una audiencia imparcial mandando una carta a: *Office of Administrative Hearings, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, P.O. Box 1930, Albany New York 12201*; por fax al: (518) 473-6735; o en línea solicitando un formulario en: <http://www.otda.ny.gov/oah/forms.asp>; o llamando gratis al: 1-800-342-3334

ASISTENCIA LEGAL: si cree que necesita representación legal en la resolución de este problema, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado, sin costo alguno, comunicándose con la Sociedad de Ayuda Legal (*Legal Aid Society*) u otra asociación de defensa legal de su localidad.