



# OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

## POLICY BULLETIN #23-10-ELI

### ENDING OF EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) ALLOTMENTS IN FEBRUARY 2023

Date: February 14, 2023	Subtopic(s): SNAP Supplements
	<p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform Benefits Access Center, HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) Center staff and Non-Cash Assistance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NCA SNAP) Center staff that the emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) allotments will end in February 2023 as a result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 which was enacted on December 29, 2022.</p> <p>To inform CA/SNAP and SNAP only households of the upcoming benefit reduction, announcements have been posted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the HRA internet home page (<a href="http://nyc.gov/hra">nyc.gov/hra</a>);</li> <li>• the Cash Assistance page (<a href="#">Cash Assistance - HRA (nyc.gov)</a>);</li> <li>• the SNAP page (<a href="#">SNAP Benefits - HRA (nyc.gov)</a>)</li> <li>• ACCESS HRA; and</li> <li>• HRA Social Media</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the HRA announcements and material, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will implement a messaging campaign including the following:</p> <p>The Frequently Asked Questions for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits (<b>Attachment A</b>) has been updated to reflect important information on the discontinuation of emergency SNAP benefit allotments.</p> <p>The SNAP Emergency Allotments to End (<b>Attachment B</b>) flyer states that February 2023 is the last month they are eligible to receive emergency allotments and advises those who have experienced a loss of income and/or an increase in expenses which may result in an increase in their normal monthly SNAP benefit, to report changes to their district.</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

The SNAP Emergency Allotments End in February (**Attachment C**) will be used for social media announcements.

The SNAP Emergency Allotments are Ending (**LDSS-5212**) letter which contains information on the supplements and why they are ending will be mailed by OTDA to all SNAP households in February 2023. This letter is generic and not personalized to a household's specific case or budget. Staff can access the letter in English, Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Italian, Korean, Polish, Russian, Yiddish and Urdu through the [eDocs](#) if a household requests a copy in one of those languages.

OTDA will also send at least three text blasts over the next two months to SNAP households to increase awareness that the emergency supplemental benefit allotments are ending and allow as much time as possible to prepare. The text messages will be sent from **1-877-902-0684** and will use the following language:

**January message:** NY OTDA: SNAP Emergency Allotments (EA) end in February. Learn more: [otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP](http://otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP)

**February message:** NY OTDA: This is the last month for SNAP Emergency Allotments (EA). Learn more: [otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP](http://otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP)

**March message:** NY OTDA: SNAP EA benefits have ended. Only regular SNAP will be issued in March: [otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP](http://otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP)

Emergency supplemental SNAP benefit allotments have been authorized and issued under a separate statutory authority than regular SNAP benefits and the specific statutory authority for those benefits has been terminated. As such, households are not entitled to a fair hearing based solely on the discontinuation of the emergency supplemental SNAP benefits. Similarly, there is no entitlement to Aid to Continue (ATC) for requests merely disputing the fact that the emergency supplemental SNAP benefits ended.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) considers the discontinuation of these emergency supplements to be similar to a "mass change" so SNAP households may be entitled to a hearing if they believe their budget was improperly calculated, or otherwise dispute the adequacy of their SNAP benefit amount.

*Effective Immediately*

**References:**

[23 TA/DC013](#)

[23 TA/DC011](#)

[21 TA/DC019](#)

[20 TA/DC029](#)

**Related Items:**

[PB #20-19-ELI](#)

COVID-19 Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Allotment

[PB #21-21-ELI](#)

COVID-19 Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Allotments for April 2021

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A**

Frequently Asked Questions for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits

**Attachment B**

SNAP Emergency Allotments to End

**Attachment C**

SNAP Emergency Allotments End in February

**LDSS-5212**

SNAP Emergency Allotments are Ending (2/23)

# Frequently Asked Questions for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits

Attachment A

Answers to many frequently asked questions about the supplemental Emergency Allotment (EA) of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

## What are supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

Since March 2020, Congress temporarily increased SNAP benefits because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Supplemental EA SNAP benefits were issued to households in addition to their normal monthly SNAP benefit amount. As a result, households received more SNAP benefits each month than they would have normally been eligible for based on their income and expenses. You can learn more about supplemental EA benefits, amounts, and issuance in this New York State EA SNAP [FAQ document](#).

## Why are supplemental EA SNAP benefits ending?

Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 in December 2022 that ended the supplemental EA benefits. **February 2023** is the last month that supplemental EA benefits will be issued, and your SNAP benefits will return to the normal amount in **March 2023**. The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and your local social services district do **not** have control over this change.

## How will SNAP recipients be made aware of this decrease in benefits?

All SNAP households will be mailed a letter in February that explains the end of the supplemental EA benefits. This letter is also available through your local department of social services in multiple languages.

In addition, SNAP households with mobile phone numbers on file will receive a series of three text messages from OTDA. The messages will be sent from the phone number: 1-877-902-0684. Text messages remind households that SNAP EA benefits are ending and directs them to this EA FAQ webpage. Text messages will be sent in late January, February, and early March.

OTDA will never ask SNAP recipients for their EBT card number or PIN. Never give your card number or PIN to anyone who texts, emails or calls you asking for this information as it is likely a scam.

In addition, an [outreach flyer](#) and [social media graphic](#) are available to assist with education and outreach efforts.

## Can I request a Fair Hearing because I am no longer receiving the EA supplement?

Emergency Allotment benefits have been eliminated under federal law, and this decision cannot be changed by a fair hearing if you request one. You may request a hearing if you believe your regular SNAP budget was improperly calculated based on your household's circumstances.

## What do I need to do?

Beginning in March 2023, you will continue to get your normal monthly SNAP benefit for as long as you are eligible.

To ensure you are receiving an accurate SNAP benefit, households that recently experienced loss of income or an increase in expenses, such as housing costs, childcare fees, child support payments or have allowable medical expenses over \$35 (for those age 60 or older, or disabled), since your last recertification, can report changes to their local district office which **may** result in an increase in the household's normal monthly SNAP benefit. To report a change, call your [local social services district](#) or submit a change report online through [myBenefits](#) or [ACCESS HRA](#).

When you need to recertify, you will receive a notice with instructions on how to do so.

Any unused SNAP benefits roll over month to month. SNAP benefits will not be removed from your card if you use your benefits any time within 274 days. You can check your household's SNAP benefit balance by visiting [www.connectebt.com](#) or by calling **1-888-328-6399**.

Protect your benefits by changing your personal identification number (PIN) often, and never give your EBT card number or PIN to anyone. To learn more about protecting your benefits from theft, visit the [OTDA EBT Scam Alert webpage](#) and watch the *Act Fast* public service announcement [video](#).

### **How can I get additional help with food or other household expenses?**

If you need more help with food, visit [www.feedingnys.org/need-food](http://www.feedingnys.org/need-food) locate food pantries in your area.

Pregnant or breastfeeding individuals and children under age 5 receiving SNAP may automatically qualify for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Visit [health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/wic/](http://health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/wic/) and click on the Wanda icon to learn more and connect with a WIC agency near you.

Coupons to purchase more fruits and vegetables with your SNAP benefits are available throughout the state. Learn more and see if your local farmers market or food store participate by visiting [FreshConnect](#), [Double Up Bucks](#) and [NYC Health Bucks](#).

The [Affordability Connectivity Program](#) provides discounts toward residential internet costs.

Heating assistance is available through the [Home Energy Assistance Program](#).

# SNAP Emergency Allotments to End

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Emergency Allotment benefits that have been provided throughout the pandemic are ending in February, due to federal rules. These temporary benefits have provided an extra payment each month to ensure all SNAP households received at least the maximum monthly benefit.

## When are SNAP Emergency Allotments ending?

The last month that SNAP Emergency Allotments will be issued is February.

Beginning in March, only regular monthly SNAP benefits will be issued to all eligible households. Your regular monthly benefit is based on your household size, income, and other factors.

## What do I need to do?

Most households do not need to do anything. However, if your household has a loss of income or an increase in housing costs, childcare fees, or child support payments since your last recertification, report those changes to your local district. You should also report any medical expenses over \$35/month (if you are age 60 or older or disabled). These changes **may** result in an increase in your normal monthly SNAP benefit.

## What else do I need to know?

Emergency Allotment benefits have been eliminated under federal law, and this decision cannot be changed by a fair hearing if you request one.

SNAP benefits roll over month to month and will remain on your card if you use your benefits any time within 274 days from when they are issued.

Keep your benefits safe – change your PIN often, and never give your card number or PIN to anyone.

For more information, visit [otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP](https://otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP)



**SNAP**  
Supplemental Nutrition  
Assistance Program

A Program of the Office of  
Temporary and Disability Assistance

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# SNAP Emergency Allotments End in February



February is the last month Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients will receive the temporary emergency allotments that have been provided throughout the pandemic. Beginning in March, all SNAP households will receive their normal monthly SNAP benefit, for as long as they remain eligible.

Learn more at [otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP](https://otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP)



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February 2023

**IMPORTANT - SNAP Emergency Supplements are ending in February 2023.**

**What are supplemental Emergency Allotment (EA) SNAP benefits?**

Since March 2020, Congress temporarily increased SNAP benefits because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Supplemental EA SNAP benefits were issued to households in addition to their normal monthly SNAP benefit amount. This means that you have been getting more SNAP benefits each month than you normally would be eligible for based on your income and expenses.

**Why are supplemental EA SNAP benefits ending?**

Because the COVID-19 situation has improved, supplemental EA benefits will no longer be issued to SNAP households. Your SNAP benefits will return to the normal amount in **March 2023**. The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and your local social services district do **not** have control over this change.

**Will my monthly SNAP benefit amount change?**

Effective **March 1, 2023**, SNAP households will **no longer** get supplemental EA SNAP benefits. As a result, all SNAP households will experience changes in their monthly total benefit amount. Your normal SNAP benefit amount is calculated using your household's specific information (e.g., household size, income, and other factors).

**What do I need to do?**

You do not need to do anything. This letter is to inform you that supplemental EA SNAP benefits will no longer be issued beginning **March 2023**. You will continue to get your normal monthly SNAP benefit for as long as you are eligible. When you need to recertify, we will give you another notice with instructions on how to do so. Households that recently experienced loss of income or an increase in expenses, such as shelter costs, childcare fees, child support payments or (for those age 60 or older, or disabled) allowable medical expenses, can report changes to their local district office which **may** result in an increase in the household's normal monthly SNAP benefit.

You can check your household's SNAP benefit balance by visiting [www.connectebt.com](http://www.connectebt.com) or by calling **1-888-328-6399**.

If you need more help with food, please visit [www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/food-pantries](http://www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/food-pantries) to locate food pantries in your area.

For more information about supplemental EA SNAP benefits visit [otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP](http://otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP) or call **1-800-342-3009**.