



**OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING**

James K. Whelan, Executive Deputy Commissioner

**Adam Waitzman, Assistant Deputy Commissioner**

Office of Procedures

**POLICY BULLETIN #20-66-ELI**

*(This Policy Bulletin Supplements PB #20-19-ELI, PB #20-28-ELI, PB #20-31-ELI, PB #20-43-ELI, PB #20-49-ELI and PB #20-54-ELI)*

**COVID-19 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALLOTMENTS FOR OCTOBER 2020**

| <b>Date:</b><br>October 21, 2020 | <b>Subtopic(s):</b><br>COVID-19 SNAP Supplements   |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  | <p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform staff that emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will be issued by the Office of Temporary Disability and Assistance (OTDA) to certain households who were issued benefits for October 2020.</p> <p>The benefits will be issued as a result of the March 18, 2020 enactment of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020.</p> <p>Households who were issued SNAP benefits for October 2020 and whose issuance was less than the maximum allotment for their household size, will be issued a supplement by OTDA for the difference between the maximum allotment and the amount they were issued. This includes SNAP cases that are currently closed.</p> <p>For example, if a SNAP household of two people was issued \$237 for October 2020, the household will be issued a supplement of \$137 because the maximum allotment for two people is \$374.</p> <p>SNAP households are eligible for the supplement even if they only received a pro-rated benefit for October 2020 because they applied for SNAP benefits after October 1st.</p> <p>The SNAP supplements will be issued on a staggered basis from 10/16/2020 through 10/29/2020 based on the toe digit of the case.</p> <p>The SNAP benefit supplements for CA/SNAP cases will be issued using single issuance code <b>20</b>. The SNAP benefit supplements for NCA SNAP cases will be issued using single issuance code <b>22</b>.</p> <p>The unique authorization number for these payments is <b>20200113</b>.</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

OTDA will continue to search for cases that were issued an October 2020 SNAP benefit that was for less than the maximum allotment for their household size. These households are eligible for the supplement even if they were not identified in the initial run. For example, households who were issued a pro-rated October 2020 SNAP benefit after the initial run, are still eligible for the supplement. Once found, these households will be issued a supplement by OTDA.

After October 31, 2020, households who were issued a SNAP benefit for October 2020 that was lower than the maximum allotment for their household size and who have not already been issued a supplement by OTDA for October 2020, can be manually issued the supplement by JOS/Workers. CA/SNAP households should be supplemented using SNAP single issuance code **20** while NCA/SNAP households should be supplemented using SNAP single issuance code **22**.

The maximum SNAP benefit allotments by household size are listed on the attached Guide to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Budgeting (**W-204G**).

OTDA updated the Frequently Asked Questions for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits (**Attachment A**).

An exception report will be sent by OTDA to the Family Independence Administration (FIA) that will list the cases that were unable to be automatically issued the emergency SNAP supplement.

*Effective Immediately*

**References:**

GIS 20 TA/DC029  
 GIS 20 TA/DC045  
 GIS 20 TA/DC062  
 GIS 20 TA/DC074  
 GIS 20 TA/DC080  
 GIS 20 TA/DC088  
 GIS 20 TA/DC098

**Related Items:**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| PB # 20-19-ELI | COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for March 2020 and April 2020 |
| PB #20-28-ELI  | COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for May 2020                  |

PB #20-31-ELI COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for June 2020  
PB #20-43-ELI COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for July 2020  
PB #20-49-ELI COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for August 2020  
PB #20-54-ELI COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for September 2020

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** Frequently Asked Questions for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits  
**W-204G** Guide to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Budgeting (Rev. 09/23/2020)

## Frequently Asked Questions for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits

Answers to many commonly asked questions about the Supplemental Emergency Allotment (EA) of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits.

### What are supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

The Families First Act (FFA) is a federal law that was passed to respond to the effects of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19. The law authorized the issuance of emergency supplemental benefits to households receiving SNAP. Based on the law, states are to issue supplemental SNAP benefits, **up to the maximum allowable SNAP benefit for a household's size**, during the emergency or disaster declaration. New York is issuing the supplemental benefits for the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, and October 2020. Only households whose SNAP benefit for the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September and/or October was **less than** the maximum benefit amount for their household's size will get a supplemental EA SNAP benefit.

### Who qualifies for the supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

If your household received a SNAP benefit for March, April, May, June, July, August, September and/or October that was **less** than the maximum benefit amount for your household's size, then you qualify for, and will automatically get, a supplemental EA SNAP benefit.

### What is the maximum SNAP benefit amount for my family's size?

The "Thrifty Food Plan" (TFP) is the maximum amount of SNAP benefits, per household size. Beginning October 1, 2020, the TFP amounts of SNAP benefits per household size have increased. The newly increased maximum monthly SNAP benefit amounts by household size are listed below:

### Maximum Monthly SNAP Benefits

| SNAP Household Size    | Maximum Monthly Benefit Amount |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1                      | \$204                          |
| 2                      | \$374                          |
| 3                      | \$535                          |
| 4                      | \$680                          |
| 5                      | \$807                          |
| 6                      | \$ 969                         |
| 7                      | \$1,071                        |
| 8                      | \$1,224                        |
| Each additional person | \$153                          |

**What if my household already got the maximum benefit for my household's size for March, April, May, June, July, August, September and/or October?**

If you got the maximum SNAP benefit for your household's size for March, April, May, June, July, August, September and/or October, then you will **not** get a supplemental EA SNAP benefit for the month you receive the maximum benefit.

**How much will I receive in supplemental EA SNAP benefits?**

SNAP households are eligible to receive supplemental EA SNAP benefits for March, April, May, June, July, August, September and/or October 2020 in the amount that will bring them up to the maximum SNAP monthly benefit amount for a household of their size.

For example, a household of 4 people may currently receive a maximum monthly allotment of \$646. If that household received \$400 in monthly SNAP benefits, they will receive supplemental EA SNAP benefits of \$246.

**Do I need to apply for supplemental EA SNAP benefits?**

No, you do **not** need to apply for supplemental EA SNAP benefits. If you already get SNAP and received a SNAP benefit for March, April, May, June, July, August, September and/or October that is **less than** the maximum benefit amount for your household's size, the EA benefits automatically will be made available on your EBT card.

If you are **not** currently enrolled in SNAP, the quickest way to apply for SNAP benefits is online at: [www.myBenefits.ny.gov](http://www.myBenefits.ny.gov) or <https://access.nyc.gov/> (if you live in New York City).

**How will I know when my emergency SNAP benefits are available?**

You can find information about how to check your available SNAP balance on your EBT card at: <https://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/ebt/>.

**What can I purchase with my emergency SNAP supplemental benefits?**

The supplemental EA benefits are SNAP benefits. Like regular SNAP benefits, the supplemental benefits can be used to purchase food at authorized retail food stores. A detailed list of food items that may be purchased with SNAP benefits can be found at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items/>.

**Do I have to use my emergency SNAP supplemental benefits right away?**

No. Unused SNAP benefits, including supplements, remain available and accessible on your EBT card for up to one year from the date they are issued.

# Guide to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Budgeting

(Effective October 1, 2020)



Department of Social Services  
Human Resources Administration  
Department of Homeless Services

Family Independence Administration

W-204G (E) 09/23/2020

## 130% GROSS INCOME LIMITS (effective 10/01/20)

Households that do not contain an elderly (60 years of age or older) or disabled individual and do not incur out-of-pocket dependent care expenses and do not have earned income are subject to the 130% gross income test.

| Household Size           | 1       | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | Each Additional Member |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| Monthly Household Income | \$1,383 | \$1,868 | \$2,353 | \$2,839 | \$3,324 | \$3,809 | \$4,295 | \$4,780 | + \$486                |

## 165% GROSS INCOME LIMITS (effective 10/01/20)

An elderly individual (and his/her spouse) who is living with others and who is unable to purchase and prepare meals because he/she suffers from a permanent disability may be a separate food unit if the income of the others with whom the individual resides (excluding the income of the elderly individual and his/her spouse) does not exceed the 165% gross income limit for the household size of the others.

| Household Size           | 1       | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | Each Additional Member |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| Monthly Household Income | \$1,755 | \$2,371 | \$2,987 | \$3,603 | \$4,219 | \$4,835 | \$5,451 | \$6,067 | + \$616                |

## 200% GROSS INCOME LIMITS (effective 10/01/20)

Households that contain an elderly or disabled individual or that incur out-of-pocket dependent care expenses that pass the 200% gross income test are categorically eligible to participate in SNAP as long as the household does not contain a SNAP-sanctioned or an Intentional Program Violation (IPV) member.

| Household Size           | 1       | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | Each Additional Member |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| Monthly Household Income | \$2,127 | \$2,873 | \$3,620 | \$4,367 | \$5,113 | \$5,860 | \$6,607 | \$7,353 | + \$747                |

## 150% GROSS INCOME LIMITS (effective 10/01/20)

Households that have earned income that do not contain an elderly or disabled individual and do not incur out-of-pocket dependent care expenses that pass the 150% gross income test are categorically eligible to participate in SNAP as long as the household does not contain a SNAP sanctioned or an IPV member.

| Household Size           | 1       | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | Each Additional Member |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| Monthly Household Income | \$1,595 | \$2,155 | \$2,715 | \$3,275 | \$3,835 | \$4,395 | \$4,955 | \$5,515 | + \$560                |

## 100% NET INCOME LIMITS (effective 10/01/20)

Households that are not categorically eligible to receive SNAP benefits are subject to the 100% net income test.

| Household Size           | 1       | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | Each Additional Member |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| Monthly Household Income | \$1,064 | \$1,437 | \$1,810 | \$2,184 | \$2,557 | \$2,930 | \$3,304 | \$3,677 | + \$374                |

## STANDARD DEDUCTION AMOUNTS (effective 10/01/20)

| Household Size     | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6+    |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Standard Deduction | \$167 | \$167 | \$167 | \$181 | \$212 | \$243 |

## SHELTER DEDUCTIONS/EXCLUSIONS:

- The maximum excess shelter deduction is **\$586** (effective 10/01/20).
- The homeless shelter deduction is **\$156.74** (effective 10/01/20).
- The boarder/lodger exclusion is **\$204** for one person and **\$374** for two people (effective 10/01/20).

## STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE (SUA) LEVELS (effective 10/01/20)

| SUA Level 1 = \$801 | SUA Level 2 = \$316 | SUA Level 3 = \$30 |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|

For information on the SUA Levels, see the SUA Levels Desk Guide (W-205HH).

## THRIFTY FOOD PLAN (TFP) (effective 10/01/20)

The maximum SNAP benefit allotment per household size is as follows:

| Household Size         | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7       | 8       | Each Additional Member |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| Maximum SNAP Allotment | \$204 | \$374 | \$535 | \$680 | \$807 | \$969 | \$1,071 | \$1,224 | + \$153                |

The minimum monthly SNAP benefit allotment for eligible one- and two-person households is **\$16** (effective 10/01/19).

## NEW YORK STATE NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (NYSNIP) BENEFIT AMOUNTS (effective 10/01/20)

| SHELTER TYPE CODE  | SSI ONLY     | SSI AND OTHER INCOME |
|--|--------------|----------------------|
| <b>Shelter Type Code 94</b><br>Shelter amount greater than <b>\$261</b> per month and eligible for full SUA.                       | <b>\$204</b> | <b>\$204</b>         |
| <b>Shelter Type Code 95</b><br>Shelter amount of <b>\$261</b> or less per month and eligible for full SUA.                         | <b>\$204</b> | <b>\$197</b>         |
| <b>Shelter Type Code 96</b><br>Shelter amount greater than <b>\$261</b> per month and eligible for full SUA with <b>\$21</b> HEAP. | <b>\$204</b> | <b>\$204</b>         |
| <b>Shelter Type Code 96</b><br>Shelter amount greater than <b>\$261</b> per month and no SUA.                                      | <b>\$18</b>  | <b>\$16</b>          |
| <b>Shelter Type Code 97</b><br>Shelter amount of <b>\$261</b> or less per month and eligible for full SUA with <b>\$21</b> HEAP.   | <b>\$204</b> | <b>\$197</b>         |
| <b>Shelter Type Code 97</b><br>Shelter amount of <b>\$261</b> or less per month and no SUA.  | <b>\$16</b>  | <b>\$16</b>          |
| <b>Shelter Type Code 98</b><br>Shelter amount and SUA eligibility unknown.   | <b>\$16</b>  | <b>\$16</b>          |