



OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

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Office of Procedures

POLICY BULLETIN #20-71-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, PB #20-54-ELI and PB #20-66-ELI)

COVID-19 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALLOTMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Date: November 12, 2020	Subtopic(s): 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 November 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 November 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 November 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 November 2020 because they applied for SNAP benefits after November 1st.</p> <p>The SNAP supplements will be issued on a staggered basis from 11/14/2020 through 11/28/2020 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 20. The SNAP benefit supplements for NCA SNAP cases will be issued using single issuance code 22.</p> <p>The unique authorization number for these payments is 20200113.</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 a November 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 November 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 November 30, 2020, households who were issued a SNAP benefit for November 2020 that was lower than the maximum allotment for their household size and who have not already been issued a supplement by OTDA for November 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
GIS 20 TA/DC102

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
- PB #20-66-ELI COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for October 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 has issued the supplemental benefits for the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October and November 2020. Only households whose SNAP benefit **for** the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October and November 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, October and November 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, October and/or November?

If you got the maximum SNAP benefit for your household's size for March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October and/or November, 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, October and/or November 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, October and/or November 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 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)

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
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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
Shelter Type Code 94 Shelter amount greater than \$261 per month and eligible for full SUA.	\$204	\$204
Shelter Type Code 95 Shelter amount of \$261 or less per month and eligible for full SUA.	\$204	\$197
Shelter Type Code 96 Shelter amount greater than \$261 per month and eligible for full SUA with \$21 HEAP.	\$204	\$204
Shelter Type Code 96 Shelter amount greater than \$261 per month and no SUA.	\$18	\$16
Shelter Type Code 97 Shelter amount of \$261 or less per month and eligible for full SUA with \$21 HEAP.	\$204	\$197
Shelter Type Code 97 Shelter amount of \$261 or less per month and no SUA.	\$16	\$16
Shelter Type Code 98 Shelter amount and SUA eligibility unknown.	\$16	\$16