



OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

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POLICY BULLETIN #21-03-ELI

(This Policy Bulletin Supplements Policy Bulletins #20-19-ELI, 20-28-ELI, 20-31-ELI, 20-43-ELI, 20-49-ELI, 20-54-ELI, 20-66-ELI, 20-71-ELI and 20-75-ELI)

COVID-19 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALLOTMENTS FOR JANUARY 2021

<p>Date: January 19, 2021</p>	<p>Subtopic(s): COVID-19 SNAP Supplements</p>
<p>See PB #21-02-ELI</p>	<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 January 2021.</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 January 2021 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>Note: The maximum allotment will be based on the temporary increased amount.</p> <p>For example, if a SNAP household of two people was issued \$237 for January 2021, the household will be issued a supplement of \$193 because the maximum allotment for two people is \$430.</p> <p>SNAP households are eligible for the supplement even if they only received a pro-rated benefit for January 2021 because they applied for SNAP benefits after January 1st.</p> <p>The SNAP supplements will be issued on a staggered basis from 01/15/2021 through 01/29/2021 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>

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 unique authorization number for these payments is **20200113**.

OTDA will continue to search for cases that were issued a January 2021 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 January 2021 SNAP benefit after the initial run, are still eligible for the supplement. Once found, these households will be issued a supplement by OTDA.

After January 31, 2021, households who were issued a SNAP benefit for January 2021 that was lower than the maximum allotment for their household size and who have not already been issued a supplement by OTDA for January 2021, 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 amounts by household size are listed on the Guide to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Budgeting (**W-204G**) which has been revised to reflect the temporary 15% increase in the maximum allotments.

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
GIS 20 TA/DC109
GIS 21 TA/DC003
GIS 21 TA/DC004

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
- PB #20-71-ELI COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for November 2020
- PB #20-75-ELI COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for December 2020
- PB #21-02-ELI Temporary Increase in SNAP Allotments Due to COVID-19

Attachment:

- Attachment A** Frequently Asked Questions for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits

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?

Answer Revision: 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 monthly for the months of March 2020 through January 2021. Only households whose SNAP benefit for the month was less than the maximum benefit amount for their household's size will get a supplemental EA SNAP benefit for that month. Households who already received the maximum benefit amount for their household size in a month are not eligible to receive a supplemental EA SNAP benefit for that month. Households may not receive more than the maximum allowable amount for their household size. This applies for any of the months OTDA issued the supplemental EA SNAP benefit, currently March 2020 through January 2021.

Who qualifies for the supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

If your household received a SNAP benefit for the months between March 2020 and January 2021 that was less than the maximum benefit amount for your household's size, then you will automatically get a supplemental EA SNAP benefit. The supplemental EA SNAP benefit will only be provided for the months that your household received less than the maximum benefit amount.

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 maximum monthly SNAP benefit amounts by household size are listed below. Please note that a **temporary 15% increase** in SNAP benefits was authorized in the recently signed federal relief legislation and will be in effect for the months of **January through June 2021**:

Maximum Monthly SNAP Benefits

March—September 2020		October—December 2020		January 2021	
SNAP Household Size	Maximum Monthly Benefit Amount	SNAP Household Size	Maximum Monthly Benefit Amount	SNAP Household Size	Maximum Monthly Benefit Amount
1	\$194	1	\$204	1	\$234
2	\$355	2	\$374	2	\$430
3	\$509	3	\$535	3	\$616
4	\$646	4	\$680	4	\$782
5	\$768	5	\$807	5	\$929
6	\$921	6	\$ 969	6	\$1,114
7	\$1,018	7	\$1,071	7	\$1,232
8	\$1,164	8	\$1,224	8	\$1,408
Each additional person	+\$146	Each additional person	+\$153	Each additional person	+\$176

What if my household already got the maximum benefit for my household's size for the months of March 2020 through January 2021?

If you got the maximum SNAP benefit for your household's size for the months of March 2020 through January 2021, then you will not get a supplemental EA SNAP benefit for any month you receive the maximum benefit. Only households whose SNAP benefit for the month was less than the maximum benefit amount for their household's size will get a supplemental EA SNAP benefit for that month. Households who already received the maximum benefit amount for their household size in a month are not eligible to receive a supplemental EA SNAP benefit for that month. Households may not receive more than the maximum allowable amount for their household size.

How much will I receive in supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

SNAP households are eligible to receive supplemental EA SNAP benefits in the amount that will bring them up to the maximum SNAP monthly benefit amount for a household of their size. This applies for any of the months OTDA issued the supplemental EA SNAP benefit, currently March 2020 through January 2021.

For example, a household of 4 people may currently receive a maximum monthly allotment of \$680. If that household received \$400 in monthly SNAP benefits, they will receive supplemental EA SNAP benefits of \$280.

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 the months between March 2020 and January 2021 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.