



OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

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Office of Procedures

POLICY BULLETIN #21-11-ELI

(This Policy Bulletin Supplements PB #20-19-ELI, 20-28-ELI, 20-31-ELI, 20-43-ELI, 20-49-ELI, 20-54-ELI, 20-66-ELI, 20-71-ELI, 20-75-ELI and 21-03-ELI)

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

Date: February 19, 2021	Subtopic(s): COVID-19 SNAP Supplements
See PB #21-02-ELI	<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 February 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 February 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 February 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 February 2021 because they applied for SNAP benefits after February 1st.</p> <p>The SNAP supplements will be issued on a staggered basis from 02/11/2021 through 02/25/2021 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 February 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 February 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 February 28, 2021, households who were issued a SNAP benefit for February 2021 that was lower than the maximum allotment for their household size and who have not already been issued a supplement by OTDA for February 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 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
GIS 20 TA/DC109
GIS 21 TA/DC003
GIS 21 TA/DC004
GIS 21 TA/DC009

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
PB #21-03-ELI	COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for January 2021

Attachments:

Attachment A	Frequently Asked Questions for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits
W-204G	Guide to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Budgeting (01/05/2021)

Frequently Asked Questions for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits

Attachment A

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 February 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 February 2021.

Who qualifies for the supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

If your household received a SNAP benefit for the months between March 2020 and February 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-June 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 February 2021?

If you got the maximum SNAP benefit for your household's size for the months of March 2020 through February 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 February 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 February 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.

Guide to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Budgeting

(Effective January 1, 2021)

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 **\$234** for one person and **\$430** for two people (effective 01/01/21).

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 01/01/21)

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	\$234	\$430	\$616	\$782	\$929	\$1,114	\$1,232	\$1,408	+ \$176

The minimum monthly SNAP benefit allotment for eligible one- and two-person households is **\$19** (effective 01/01/21).

NEW YORK STATE NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (NYSNIP) BENEFIT AMOUNTS (effective 01/01/21)

SHELTER TYPE CODE	SSI ONLY	SSI AND OTHER INCOME
Shelter Type Code 94 Shelter amount greater than \$264 per month and eligible for full SUA.	\$234	\$234
Shelter Type Code 95 Shelter amount of \$264 or less per month and eligible for full SUA.	\$232	\$223
Shelter Type Code 96 Shelter amount greater than \$264 per month and eligible for full SUA with \$21 HEAP.	\$234	\$234
Shelter Type Code 96 Shelter amount greater than \$264 per month and no SUA.	\$19	\$19
Shelter Type Code 97 Shelter amount of \$264 or less per month and eligible for full SUA with \$21 HEAP.	\$232	\$223
Shelter Type Code 97 Shelter amount of \$264 or less per month and no SUA.	\$19	\$19
Shelter Type Code 98 Shelter amount and SUA eligibility unknown.	\$19	\$19