



OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

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POLICY BULLETIN #21-21-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, 21-03-ELI, 21-11-ELI, and 21-12-ELI)

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

Date: April 15, 2021	Subtopic(s): COVID-19 SNAP Supplements
New Minimum SNAP Supplement Amount	<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 all SNAP households who were issued benefits for April 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>From March 2020 through March 2021, emergency supplemental SNAP benefits were issued only to SNAP households that did not receive the maximum benefit for the household's size.</p> <p>Starting in April 2021, all households who were issued SNAP benefits for the month will be issued an emergency supplement by OTDA. This includes SNAP cases that are currently closed.</p> <p>SNAP households whose difference between the maximum SNAP allotment for their household size and their regular allotment is less than \$95 (including those who are already receiving the maximum allotment) will be issued a \$95 emergency supplement.</p> <p>For example, if a SNAP household of two was issued \$380 for April 2021, the household will be issued an emergency supplement of \$95 because the difference between the maximum SNAP allotment of \$430 for their household size and their \$380 allotment is less than \$95.</p> <p>Households whose difference between the maximum SNAP allotment for their household size and their regular allotment is more than \$95 will be issued an emergency supplement for the actual difference.</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

For example, if a SNAP household of two was issued \$330 for April 2021, the household will be issued an emergency supplement of \$100 because the difference between the maximum SNAP allotment of \$430 for their household size and their \$330 allotment is more than \$95.

Households whose difference between the maximum SNAP allotment for their household size and their regular allotment is exactly \$95 will be issued an emergency supplement for \$95.

SNAP households are eligible for the emergency supplement even if they only received a pro-rated benefit for April 2021 because they applied for SNAP benefits after April 1st.

The SNAP supplements will be issued on a staggered basis from 04/17/2021 through 04/30/2021 based on the toe digit of the case.

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**.

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

OTDA will continue to search for cases that were not issued a supplement for April 2021 SNAP. These households are eligible for a supplement even if they were not identified in the initial run. For example, households who were issued a pro-rated April 2021 SNAP benefit after the initial run, are still eligible for a supplement. Once found, these households will be issued supplements by OTDA.

After April 30, 2021, households who were issued a SNAP benefit for April 2021 and who have not already been issued a supplement by OTDA for April 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**.

Note: If staff are issuing retroactive SNAP benefits, they must also evaluate the household's eligibility for emergency supplements. As there was no minimum emergency supplements for months prior to April 2021, if the household is being issued the maximum allotment for their household size, no retroactive emergency supplements should be issued. For example, if a household of two is being reopened because of an agency error in March 2021 and the household is eligible for retroactive monthly SNAP benefits of \$430 based on their budget, no retroactive emergency supplement should be issued as the maximum for their household size was issued.

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 supplement.

Effective April 1, 2021

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
 GIS 21 TA/DC011
 GIS 21 TA/DC019

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
PB #21-11-ELI	COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for February 2021
PB #21-12-ELI	COVID-19 Emergency SNAP Allotments for March 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

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?

In March 2020, the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) was passed in response to the effects of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19. The law authorized the issuance of emergency allotment supplemental benefits to households receiving SNAP. Based on the law, beginning in March 2020, states were given permission to issue supplemental EA SNAP benefits to households not receiving the maximum benefit for the household's size. The amount of the supplement was the difference between the benefit the household normally would receive and the maximum for the household's size. States were given permission to issue the supplements as long as the state has either a disaster declaration or a state of emergency in effect, and as long as the federal public health emergency caused by the pandemic remains in effect. New York has issued the supplemental benefits every month since March 2020 and will continue issuing monthly EA SNAP benefits as long as the state's emergency declaration and the national public health emergency remain in effect.

Beginning in April 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture changed the supplementation policy and authorized the payment of a supplement of at least \$95 to all households receiving SNAP benefits.

Who qualifies for the supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

Beginning April 2021, all households receiving SNAP benefits will receive at least \$95 per month in supplemental EA SNAP benefits. This includes households already receiving the maximum SNAP benefit amount for their household size, and households that previously would have received a monthly supplement of less than \$95.

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

In March 2021, signed federal relief legislation extended the temporary 15% increase of maximum SNAP benefit amounts until September 2021. The current maximum monthly SNAP benefit amounts by household size are as listed:

Maximum Monthly SNAP Benefits

January-September 2021	
SNAP Household Size	Maximum Monthly Benefit Amount
1	\$234
2	\$430
3	\$616
4	\$782
5	\$929
6	\$1,114
7	\$1,232
8	\$1,408

January-September 2021	
SNAP Household Size	Maximum Monthly Benefit Amount
Each additional person	+\$176

What if my household already got the maximum benefit for my household's size?

If you have been receiving the maximum SNAP benefit amount for your household's size and formerly were not eligible for a supplement, beginning in April 2021 you will receive a monthly supplemental EA SNAP benefit of \$95. If you have been receiving supplemental EA SNAP benefits of less than \$95 a month to bring your household's benefit to the maximum monthly amount for your household's size, you now will receive an EA SNAP supplemental benefit of \$95 a month. If you have been receiving EA SNAP supplemental benefits of at least \$95 a month to bring your household's benefit to the maximum monthly amount for your household's size, your monthly EA SNAP supplemental benefit amount will remain unchanged.

How much will I receive in supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

While New York State's emergency declaration and the federal public health emergency remain in effect, SNAP households are eligible to receive EA supplemental SNAP benefits in the amount that will bring them up to the maximum SNAP monthly benefit level for their household size or a supplement of \$95—whichever amount is greater.

For example, the maximum allowable monthly amount of SNAP benefits for a household of 4 people is \$782. If that household receives \$400 a month in normal SNAP benefits, they will receive a supplemental EA SNAP benefit of \$382. If the same household receives \$700 a month in normal SNAP benefits, the household would receive \$95 a month in supplemental EA SNAP benefits, instead of \$82, as would have been the case for months prior to April 2021.

Please note, benefit amounts will remain unchanged for households that have been already receiving EA SNAP benefits of at least \$95 per month.

Do I need to apply for supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

No, you do not need to apply for supplemental EA SNAP benefits. Households automatically receive their supplemental EA SNAP benefits on their 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 supplemental EA 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 supplemental EA SNAP 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 at least 274 days from the date they are issued.

Guide to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Budgeting

(Effective January 1, 2021)



Department of
Social Services
Human Resources Administration
Department of Homeless Services

Family Independence
Administration

W-204G (E) 01/05/2021

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