



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	21 TA/DC019 Upstate and New York City
Date:	April 09, 2021
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, SNAP Directors, TA Directors, WMS Coordinators, Medicaid Directors
From:	Alison Maura, Director of Temporary Assistance and HEAP Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	COVID-19 April Emergency Allotments to SNAP Households
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Questions – SNAP Bureau 518-473-1469 or otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	Updated FAQs for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) that Emergency Allotments (EA) will be issued to **all** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipient households that received benefits for the month of April 2021. The emergency allotments were authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 and are being issued in accordance with the terms of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) memorandums of March 20, 2020 and April 1, 2021.

From March 2020 through March 2021, the EA supplemental SNAP benefits were issued only to SNAP households that did not or receive the maximum benefit for the household's size.

Beginning in April 2021, **all households**, including those already receiving the maximum benefit for the household's size, and households that formerly would have received a monthly supplement of less than \$95, **will receive a supplement of at least \$95**. For households receiving supplements greater than \$95, this policy change will not affect the supplement they receive. For households receiving supplements greater than \$95, the supplement will continue to be the difference between the amount of SNAP benefits the household received for the month and the current maximum benefit amount for the household's size.

For households that receive a combined issuance for March and April, this new supplementation policy will only affect the April portion of the SNAP benefit. The March portion of the grant will be supplemented in accordance with the supplementation-to-the-maximum policy that was in effect for March.

This new supplementation policy only affects SNAP benefits for April 2021 and any future months for which EA supplemental benefits are to be issued. It is not retroactive and does not affect any months prior to April 2021.

Below is a chart of the maximum monthly benefits by household size.

Please Note: The maximum allotments listed below reflect the updated SNAP standards, that temporarily are in effect between January 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT
1	\$234
2	\$430
3	\$616
4	\$782
5	\$929
6	\$1,114
7	\$1,232
8	\$1,408
For each additional member	+\$176

The EA supplements will be issued automatically by OTDA. An Exception Report listing those cases that were unable to be automatically issued the EA supplements will be generated for district action. The initial supplemental issuance will be provided to currently active and closed SNAP cases that received benefits less than the maximum amount based on the household’s size for the month of April 2021. Subsequent “clean-up” issuances will be run to issue benefits to newly approved SNAP cases that received benefits for April that were less than the maximum benefit for the household’s size.

Please Note: Only EA supplements will be automatically issued by OTDA. Districts must continue to process cases and issue regular SNAP benefits for April as usual.

The mass issuance of EA supplements for April 2021 will be issued on staggered schedules as described below.

New York City

The EA supplements will be issued in ten cohorts, based on the case toe-digit, from April 17th – April 23rd, and from April 24th – April 30th. Benefits will be available the next day following issuance. The supplement will be issued using Payment Type Codes 20 and 22, and a unique authorization number.

- The supplements will be issued using single issuance code **20** Daily Retroactive Benefit (PA) for PA/SNAP cases.
- The supplements will be issued using single issuance code **22** Daily Retroactive Benefit (NPA) for SNAP-only cases.
- The unique authorization number for these payments is 20200113.

Rest of State

Supplements will be authorized on a staggered basis to all districts outside of NYC as follows:

- April 12, 2021 – April 15, 2021
- April 19, 2021 – April 22, 2021

Eligible cases will be in pending status on April 13th – 16th and April 20th – 23rd. Because of the additional volume of cases receiving these supplements this month, additional issuance days may be necessary. If so, the additional issuances will commence on April 26th (with cases in pending status on April 27th) and continue nightly until completed. The mass-authorized supplemental SNAP benefits will be available to recipients in EBT after midnight on the day after authorization.

For Upstate, the supplements will be issued using Payment Type Code 97 with a J in the Claim Code field. An Upstate Systems GIS will provide further details.