



**MASS NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE SNAP
OCTOBER 2014**

Case Number:
Loc. Off./Unit/Worker:

General Telephone No. for
Questions or Help:

Dear SNAP Recipient:

You are receiving this notice because you receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits as a participant in the New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP), **and**

- you either do not incur a separate bill or charge for heating or air conditioning costs, **and** you have not received Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits of more than \$20 during the month this letter is dated or during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months, **or**
- you have not provided any information to your local social services district about your shelter costs or utility costs since your current SNAP case opened.

If you do not incur a separate bill or charge for heating or air conditioning costs, **and** you have not received a HEAP benefit of more than \$20 during the month this letter is dated or during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months, then **due to a change in federal law** (Section 4006 of the Agricultural Act of 2014), you are no longer eligible to have the Heating/Air Conditioning Standard Utility Allowance (HCSUA) used in your SNAP benefit calculation. As a result, **beginning October 1, 2014, your SNAP benefits will decrease.**

If your monthly shelter costs (rent, mortgage, etc.) are more than \$242, your only income is SSI, and your monthly SNAP benefit was \$189, then beginning October 1, 2014 your monthly SNAP benefit will be \$31.

If your monthly shelter costs (rent, mortgage, etc.) are more than \$242, you receive other income (such as Social Security Disability income or have earnings) in addition to SSI, and your monthly SNAP benefit was \$189, then beginning October 1, 2014 your monthly SNAP benefit will be \$22.

If your monthly shelter costs are \$242 or less, beginning October 1, 2014, your monthly SNAP benefit will be \$16.

Also, if you are a SNAP recipient participating in NYSNIP and you have not provided any information to your local social services district about your shelter costs or utility costs since your current SNAP case opened, then beginning October 1, 2014, your monthly SNAP benefit will be \$16.

If you do incur a separate bill or charge for heating costs, air conditioning costs, electricity, cooking gas or other utility cost from a utility or from your landlord, or if you or someone you live with has received a HEAP payment of more than \$20 during the month this letter is dated or during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months, you might be eligible to have the Heating/Air Conditioning SUA or Utility SUA used in your SNAP benefit calculation and may be eligible for more SNAP benefits. If so, please contact your local social services district office at the number on this letter.

If you think we made a mistake in figuring your October SNAP benefits due to the above noted changes, you may ask for a state fair hearing, *within 90 days of when your October 2014 SNAP benefits become available*. You can ask for a fair hearing by writing to: Office of Administrative Hearings, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, P.O. Box 1930, Albany New York 12201; Faxing (518) 473-6735; on-line by requesting a form at: <http://www.otda.ny.gov/oah/forms.asp>; or by calling toll free: 1-800-342-3334.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE: If you think that you need a lawyer to assist you with this problem, you may be able to get a lawyer at no cost to you by contacting your local Legal Aid Society or other legal advocate group.