
Dear NYSNIP Participant:

A few months ago, you received a notice from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (NYSOTDA) about the New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP). Governor George Pataki sought and received approval from the federal government to provide you with additional resources to purchase food. As a result, a food stamp case had been opened automatically for you because you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and according to the Social Security Administration, you live alone.

In order to continue to receive food stamp benefits under NYSNIP, you must use at least some of the benefits that have been put into an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) benefit account for you.

We are sending this letter to remind you to use some of the benefits soon so that we can keep your food stamp case open and you can continue to get food stamp benefits. The account can be accessed by using your New York State Benefit Card to purchase food.

You will not receive any additional notification about your case if you do not use any of your benefits within three months of the opening date of your case. However, even if your case is closed, you may apply for food stamps again at any time by contacting your county Department of Social Services. To find out how to contact your county Department of Social Services call 1- 800 -342 -3009.

If you have not yet used any of your food stamp benefits because you do not know how, **or because you have other questions about NYSNIP, the flyer that is enclosed with this letter may help answer some of your questions.** The flyer was prepared by the Nutrition Consortium of New York State. The Nutrition Consortium is **not** a government agency. It is an independent organization that believes that NYSNIP is a very important nutrition program. That is why they have prepared the enclosed flyer, and why they are working with us to encourage you to use your NYSNIP food stamp benefits soon.

Sincerely,

Robert Doar
Commissioner