

**GOOD NEWS FOR SSI RECIPIENTS
WHO LIVE ALONE !**

There is a **special new food stamp program project**
that will help you pay for food!

Because you live by yourself and receive SSI,
you are getting benefits each month from the
“New York State Nutrition Improvement Project” (or “NYSNIP”).

NYSNIP doesn't cost you anything,
and it will help pay for food at most grocery stores.
NYSNIP will not change your monthly SSI benefit check!

NYSNIP gives food stamp benefits on the same plastic card you use for Medicaid.
You get a PIN number for your NYSNIP account. To buy food with NYSNIP,
you pass your Medicaid card through the machine at the store checkout counter
and enter your PIN number.

**NYSNIP will help you buy the good food you need
to stay healthy!**

You have already received a letter from the New York State
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)
telling you all about NYSNIP. **Be sure to read that letter carefully!**
That letter from OTDA has a lot of important information
about how NYSNIP works.

Since you are getting NYSNIP for the first time, your food stamp benefits start at
either \$16 or \$20 every month. **However, you may be able to get much more -
as much as \$149** every month . Simply fill out the form included with your NYSNIP
letter from OTDA and send it back to your local department of social services.

Please go shopping and use your NYSNIP food stamp benefits right away
(after you get your new PIN number) , so that you can keep getting your NYSNIP
food stamp benefits each month. You can even get a special benefit card that can be used
by someone you trust, so this person can shop for you using your NYSNIP benefits.

If you have questions about NYSNIP, or the OTDA letter, call one of the Nutrition
Outreach & Education Programs (NOEPs) on the enclosed list.
If your county does not have a NOEP, you can call your local
department of social services or office for the aging.