

DATE: August 25, 2016

TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, WMS Coordinators, MA Directors

FROM: Phyllis D. Morris, Deputy Commissioner
Center for Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Upstate and NYC-Updated Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Standards for October, 2016

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: SNAP Questions–SNAP Bureau (518) 473-1469
MRB/A Upstate Questions–John Pezzulo (518) 473-3468
MRB/A NYC Questions–Pat Bennett (212) 961-8185

In compliance with federal requirements 7 CFR 273.9, effective October 1, 2016, the SNAP standards will be as follows.

The standard deduction amounts that will be used in the annual SNAP mass re-budgeting for October 1, 2016:

Household Size	Standard Deduction
1	\$157
2	\$157
3	\$157
4	\$168
5	\$197
6+	\$226

The minimum allotment for one and two person households will remain \$16.

Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction: **\$517 (increase)**
Homeless Shelter Deduction: \$143 (unchanged)
Boarder/Lodger Exclusion: \$194 for one person or \$357 for two persons (unchanged)

The new Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) thresholds are as follows:

Household size	200% of FPL*	165% of FPL**	150% of FPL***	Maximum Gross Monthly Income 130% of FPL	Maximum Net Monthly Income 100% of FPL	Maximum Allotment (Unchanged)
1	\$1980	\$1634	\$1485	\$1287	\$990	\$194
2	\$2670	\$2203	\$2003	\$1736	\$1335	\$357
3	\$3360	\$2772	\$2520	\$2184	\$1680	\$511
4	\$4050	\$3342	\$3038	\$2633	\$2025	\$649
5	\$4740	\$3911	\$3555	\$3081	\$2370	\$771
6	\$5430	\$4480	\$4073	\$3530	\$2715	\$925
7	\$6122	\$5051	\$4592	\$3980	\$3061	\$1022
8	\$6815	\$5623	\$5112	\$4430	\$3408	\$1169
Each Add'l Member	+\$693	+\$572	\$520	+\$451	+\$347	+\$146

*SNAP households containing any aged or disabled members, and households that pay out-of-pocket dependent care costs, that pass the 200% FPL gross income test and do not contain a SNAP-sanctioned or an Intentional Program Violation (IPV) member are categorically eligible for SNAP, meaning that such households are not subject to a resource test, and that such households of one or two persons are, minimally, eligible to receive the \$16 minimum allotment for households of one or two persons.

**Elderly (60 years of age or older) or household members (and their spouses) who are incapable of buying food or preparing meals due to a disability may apply as a separate food unit if the income of the others with whom the individual resides (excluding the income of the elderly and disabled individual and his/her spouse) do not exceed the 165% FPL amount.

*** SNAP households with **earned** income budgeted for the purpose of determining SNAP eligibility and benefit amount that **do not** contain a household member that is sanctioned or disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation (IPV), failure to comply with work rules or voluntary job quit, that **do not** contain an aged or disabled member, and that **do not** pay out-of-pocket dependent care costs, must pass the 150% FPL gross income test.

It should be noted that, per USDA rules, all households of three or more people, after the applicable Gross and / or Net Income Test(s) are passed, must have their monthly Net Income calculate out to a positive SNAP Allotment to be eligible to receive benefits.

There will be a decrease to the amounts of the Heating/Air Conditioning Standard Utility Allowance (“HT/AC SUA” in Upstate ABEL) as well as the Utility (UTIL) SUA (“Limited Utility Allowance” or “LUA” in Upstate ABEL), and “Combined Heat/Utility/Phone SUA” in NYC ABEL) as well as the Utility (UTIL) SUA (“Limited Utility Allowance” or “LUA” in NYC ABEL). The Phone SUA will remain unchanged:

<u>Geographic Area</u>	<u>HT/AC SUA</u>	<u>UTIL SUA</u>	<u>PHONE SUA</u>
NYC	\$758	\$300	\$33
Nassau & Suffolk	\$706	\$277	\$33
Rest of State	\$627	\$254	\$33

Note: The SUA values other than the Phone SUA include amounts for water, sewage, and trash collection.

NYSNIP BENEFITS MATRIX BY SHELTER TYPES
Effective 10/01/16 – 09/30/17

HOUSEHOLD		SNAP/FOOD STAMP MONTHLY BENEFIT AMOUNT		
		New York City	Nassau/Suffolk	Upstate
Shelter Type 94 (High Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$194	\$194	\$194
	Other Income	\$194	\$194	\$194
Shelter Type 95 (Low Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$194	\$181	\$157
	Other Income	\$187	\$172	\$148
Shelter Type 96 (High Shelter/SUA/\$21 HEAP)	SSI Only	\$194	\$194	\$194
	Other Income	\$194	\$194	\$194
Shelter Type 96 (High Shelter/No SUA)	SSI Only	\$27	\$27	\$27
	Other	\$18	\$18	\$18
Shelter Type 97 (Low Shelter/SUA/\$21 HEAP)	SSI Only	\$194	\$181	\$157
	Other Income	\$187	\$172	\$148
Shelter Type 97 (Low Shelter/No SUA)	SSI Only	\$16	\$16	\$16
	Other	\$16	\$16	\$16
Shelter Type 98 (No Shelter or SUA Data)	SSI Only	\$16	\$16	\$16
	Other Income	\$16	\$16	\$16

All SNAP households will be sent laser letter notification to inform them that depending on their household’s individual circumstances, the amount of their monthly SNAP benefit may not change, may decrease or increase, as a result of these changes. A sample copy of the Upstate and NYC laser letter is attached.

Please note there is no Public Notice Poster for the October, 2016 changes.

MASS NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE SNAP/NYC
OCTOBER 2016

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

General Telephone No. for
Questions or Help:

Dear SNAP Recipient:

Beginning October 1, 2016, some items used to figure the amount of SNAP benefits a household gets will change. These changes are the result of federally-required changes to the following standards and deductions. The Standard Deduction for households of 1 to 3 persons will increase from \$155 to \$157. The Standard Deduction for households of more than three persons will not change. The SNAP Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction will increase by \$13, from \$504 to \$517.

The new Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) amounts, as of October 1, 2016 are:

New York City	Old SUA Values	New SUA Values
Heating / Air Conditioning SUA Values	\$768	\$758
Basic Utility SUA Values	\$304	\$300
Phone SUA	\$33 (Unchanged)	

(Note: The SUA values other than the Phone SUA include amounts for water, sewage, and trash collection)

These changes may affect the amount of SNAP benefits you get. Depending on your individual circumstance the amount of your monthly SNAP benefit may not change, or it may decrease or increase as a result of these changes.

The maximum amounts of SNAP benefits per household size, known as the "Thrifty Food Plan" amounts, will not change.

The minimum SNAP benefit amount that a one or two person household currently can receive, \$16.00 per month, will not change.

The Regulations which allows us to do this are **18 NYCRR 358-3.3(e)(1)(i), 387.10, 387.12 and 387.15.**

Reporting Rules

Most SNAP households with income only have to report changes every six months. Every six months, you either will be asked to recertify, or will be mailed a form for you to use to report changes. **The one exception to this rule is if your household's gross monthly income becomes more than 130% of the federal poverty level.** Your gross income includes all income any member of your household received during the calendar month before taxes and other deductions are taken out, not the amount you receive when you receive your check.

See Chart Below. The dollar amount shown under your household size shows the new 130% of poverty income limit for your household, as of October 1, 2016. If your household's gross monthly income becomes greater than this amount, you must report the new gross monthly income amount to your social services office by phone, in writing, or in person within 10 days after the end of the month.

Report Household Gross Income Over the Income Limits Below based on Your Household Size										
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Report if Gross Household Income Goes Over:	\$1,287	\$1,736	\$2,184	\$2,633	\$3,081	\$3,530	\$3,980	\$4,430	\$4,881	\$5,332

Some households must report changes in their household circumstances within 10 days of the month following the month in which the change occurred. You must follow this reporting rule if your household has no income at all, if your household has no income from employment and all adults are either over age 60 or disabled, or if you receive SSI/SSD and you live in a state certified group home. Also, if your household contains a seasonal migrant farmworker, or if your household is certified for fewer than four months, or if your household is homeless ("undomiciled", without any shelter).

The reduction to your SNAP benefits is a federally-mandated mass change to SNAP benefits amounts. Pursuant to federal regulations at 7 CFR 271.7(f), there is no right to a fair hearing to dispute this reduction. If you think some other mistake, such as an improper computation, was made in figuring your SNAP benefits, you may ask for a Fair Hearing within 90 days of when your October 2016 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 forms at: <http://www.otda.ny.gov/oah/forms.asp>; or by calling toll-free: 1-800-342-3334.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE: If you think you need a lawyer to help 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. For the names of other lawyers, check your Yellow Pages under "Lawyers".

THE EBT CARD DESIGN HAS CHANGED. YOU DO NOT NEED TO ORDER A REPLACEMENT. YOUR CURRENT CARD WILL CONTINUE TO WORK.

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The new Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) amounts, as of October 1, 2016 are:

	Nassau/Suffolk Counties		Rest of State	
	Old SUA Values	New SUA Values	Old SUA Values	New SUA Values
Heating/Air conditioning SUA Values	\$716	\$706	\$636	\$627
Basic Utility SUA Values	\$281	\$277	\$257	\$254
Phone SUA	\$33 (Unchanged for all Counties)			

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