

DATE: February 20, 2019

TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners, Counsel, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, MA Directors, Staff Development Coordinators, Financial Directors, Adult Services Directors, Employment Coordinators

FROM: Jeffrey Gaskell, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Employment and Income Support Programs

SUBJECT: NYC - Notification of Compressed Issuance Cycle for March Recurring SNAP Benefits

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: SNAP Bureau at: (518) 473-1469

Background

In January, at the request of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), recurring SNAP benefits for the month of February were issued early and deposited into EBT accounts on January 17th. Due to this early issuance, there is concern that the gap between the early February issuance and the regular March issuance cycle will cause hardship, particularly for households whose benefit availability date falls late in the regular issuance cycle.

To mitigate this hardship, USDA has asked the states to compress their regular issuance cycle for March. To accommodate this request and to mitigate the hardship to New York City SNAP recipients the normal recurring SNAP benefit cycle for March is being compressed from twelve (12) days to seven (7). Please see the attached public notice for the revised benefit issuance schedule.

Program Implications

The continuing resolution that re-opened the federal government in January fully-funded March benefits, and, unlike the early issuance of February benefits, the compression of the benefit issuance scheduled for March does not affect either the normal recurring benefit file pull-down schedule or the EBT benefit file delivery schedule. Therefore, **the compressed issuance schedule does not affect normal case processing, at all, including recertifications and processing deadlines for recurring benefits.** Additionally, the compressed SNAP schedule **does not affect the Temporary Assistance benefits issuance schedule.** Temporary Assistance benefits will be issued on their normal schedule.

The primary purpose of this GIS, therefore, is informational, and to request that, as in January, that the attached public notice be prominently posted.

Because it is not feasible to provide individual notice to all affected households, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has developed the attached Public Notice Poster to inform SNAP households that recurring SNAP benefits for March will be made available to some New York City households sooner than their normally scheduled benefit availability date. Until further notice, all NYC Centers that serve SNAP applicants and recipients in person must display the Public Notice Poster providing information about the compressed issuance of recurring March SNAP.

The Public Notice Poster must be displayed in both English and Spanish in reception and lobby areas where applications for SNAP benefits are accepted. The Public Notice Poster must be displayed within these areas in a manner reasonably expected to be seen by individuals and should be placed near the Poster Pub 4842, "If you need an Interpreter".

The public notice about February benefits may now be removed.

Attachments