

**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:** Upstate - 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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 SNAP recipients OTDA will be issuing all recurring SNAP benefits to upstate SNAP recipients on March 1<sup>st</sup>.** Normally, in upstate districts, benefits are issued over the first nine (9) calendar days of each month.

## 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 March recurring pay-lines.** 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 they did in January, that social services districts (districts) prominently post the attached public notice. 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

all upstate SNAP households on March 1st, instead of the regularly scheduled benefit availability date. As in January, until further notice, all districts must display the Public Notice Poster.

The Public Notice Poster must be displayed in both English and Spanish in reception and lobby areas where applications for SNAP benefits are accepted. Districts with more than one office conducting such business must post the Public Notice in all such offices. 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