

Notice to all SNAP Recipients

Important! Please Read!

Beginning October 1, 2020, some items used to figure the amount of SNAP benefits a household gets will change. These changes are a result of **federally-required** changes to the following standards and deductions.

- The Standard Deduction for households of one to three persons remains unchanged at \$167.
- The Standard Deduction for households of four persons will increase by \$3, from \$178 to \$181.
- The Standard Deduction for households of five persons will increase by \$3, from \$209 to \$212.
- The Standard Deduction for households of six or more persons will increase by \$3, from \$240 to \$243.
- The SNAP Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction will increase by \$17, from \$569 to \$586.
- The SNAP maximum homeless shelter deduction will increase by \$4.68, from \$152.06 to \$156.74.

The new Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) amounts, as of October 1, 2020 are:

	New York City		Nassau / Suffolk		Rest of State	
	Old SUA	New SUA	Old SUA Values	New SUA Values	Old SUA	New SUA Values
Heating / Air Conditioning SUA	\$800	\$801	\$744	\$744	\$661	\$661
Basic Utility SUA	\$316	\$316	\$292	\$292	\$268	\$268
Phone SUA	\$30 (Unchanged for all Counties)					

(Note: 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 "Thrifty Food Plan" (TFP) is the maximum amount of SNAP benefits, per household size. Beginning October 1, 2020, the maximum amounts of SNAP benefits per household size will increase. The new TFP amounts will be:

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Maximum Allotment	\$204	\$374	\$535	\$680	\$807	\$969	\$1,071	\$1,224

Each additional household member add \$153.00

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

The State Regulations which allow 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 receives during the calendar month before taxes and other deductions are taken out.

See Chart below: The dollar amount shown under your household's size shows the new 130% of poverty income limit for your household, as of October 1, 2020. If your household's gross monthly income becomes more than this amount, you must report the new, higher 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 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:	\$1,383	\$1,868	\$2,353	\$2,839	\$3,324	\$3,809	\$4,295	\$4,780	\$5,266	\$5,752

The change 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 we made a mistake in figuring your October SNAP benefits due to above noted changes, you may ask for a state fair hearing, *within 90 days of when your October 2020 SNAP benefits become available.* You can ask for a fair hearing by writing to: Office of Administration 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 form at: <http://www.otda.ny.gov/oah/forms.asp>; or by calling toll free: 1-800-342-3334.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE: If you think that you need a lawyer to assist 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.