



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

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| Transmittal: | 21 TA/DC003 Upstate and New York City |
| Date: | January 13, 2021 |
| To: | Subscribers |
| Suggested Distribution: | Commissioners, SNAP Directors, TA Directors, WMS Coordinators, Medicaid Directors |
| From: | Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs |
| Subject: | COVID-19 January 2021 Emergency Allotments to SNAP Households |
| Effective Date: | Immediately |
| Contact Information: | Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Questions – SNAP Bureau 518-473-1469 or otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov |
| Attachments: | FAQs for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits |

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) that Emergency Allotments (EA) will be issued to some Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipient households that received benefits for the month of January 2021. The allotments were authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 and are being issued in accordance with the terms of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) memorandum of March 20, 2020. This GIS builds upon [GIS 20 TA/DC098](#), which issued Emergency Allotments for October.

The EA benefits will be issued as supplements only to SNAP households that have not or will not receive the maximum household benefit, based on the household's size for January 2021. The supplement will be the difference between the amount of SNAP benefits the household received for the month and the maximum benefit amount for the household's size.

Only SNAP households that did not receive the maximum benefit for the size of the household for January are eligible for the EA supplement. This includes households that received a pro-rated, partial issuance for January.

SNAP Households that received the maximum benefit, based on their household's size, for January are **not** eligible for an EA supplement.

Below is a chart of the maximum monthly benefits by household size.

Please Note: The maximum allotments listed below reflect the updated SNAP standards, that temporarily are in effect between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021.

| HOUSEHOLD SIZE | MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | \$234 |
| 2 | \$430 |
| 3 | \$616 |
| 4 | \$782 |
| 5 | \$929 |
| 6 | \$1,114 |
| 7 | \$1,232 |
| 8 | \$1,408 |
| For each additional member | +\$176 |

The EA supplements will be issued automatically by OTDA. An Exception Report listing those cases that were unable to be automatically issued the EA supplements will be generated for district action. The initial supplemental issuance will be provided to currently active and closed SNAP cases that received benefits less than the maximum amount based on the household's size for the month of January 2021. Subsequent "clean-up" issuances will be run to issue benefits to newly approved SNAP cases that received benefits for January that were less than the maximum benefit for the household's size.

Please Note: Only EA supplements will be automatically issued by OTDA. Districts must continue to process cases and issue regular SNAP benefits for January as usual.

The mass issuance of EA supplements for January 2021 will be issued on staggered schedules as described below.

New York City

The EA supplements will be issued in ten cohorts, based on the case toe-digit, on 1/15, from 1/19 through 1/22, and from 1/25 through 1/29. Benefits will be available the next day following issuance. The supplement will be issued using Payment Type Codes 20 and 22, and a unique authorization number.

- The supplements will be issued using single issuance code **20** Daily Retroactive Benefit (PA) for PA/SNAP cases.
- The supplements will be issued using single issuance code **22** Daily Retroactive Benefit (NPA) for SNAP-only cases.
- The unique authorization number for these payments is 20200113.

Rest of State

Supplements will be authorized on a staggered basis to all districts outside of NYC as follows:

- January 11, 2021 – January 14, 2021
- January 18, 2021 – January 21, 2021

Eligible cases will be in pending status on January 11-14 and January 18-21. These transactions may be cancelled, but they cannot be modified. The mass-authorized supplemental SNAP benefits will be available to recipients in EBT after midnight on the day after authorization.

For Upstate, the supplements will be issued using Payment Type Code 97 with a J in the Claim Code field. An Upstate Systems GIS will be issued providing further details.