



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	21 TA/DC026 Upstate and New York City
Date:	May 7, 2021
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, SNAP Directors, TA Directors, WMS Coordinators, Medicaid Directors
From:	Alison Maura, Director of Temporary Assistance and HEAP Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	COVID-19 May 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:	Updated 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 **all** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipient households that received benefits for the month of May 2021. The emergency 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, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS), memorandums of March 20, 2020 and April 1, 2021.

From March 2020 through March 2021, the EA supplemental SNAP benefits were issued only to SNAP households that did not receive the maximum benefit for the household's size.

Beginning in April 2021, **all households**, including those already receiving the maximum benefit for the household's size, and households that formerly would have received a monthly supplement of less than \$95, **will receive a supplement of at least \$95**. For households receiving supplements greater than \$95, this policy change will not affect the supplement they receive. For households receiving supplements greater than \$95, the supplement will continue to be the difference between the amount of SNAP benefits the household received for the month and the current maximum benefit amount for the household's size.

This new supplementation policy went into effect on April 1, 2021 and only applies to any future months for which EA supplemental benefits are to be issued. It is not retroactive and does not affect any months prior to April 2021.

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 September 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 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 May 2021. Subsequent "clean-up" issuances will be run to issue benefits to newly approved SNAP cases that received benefits 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 as usual.

The mass issuance of EA supplements for May 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, from May 17th – May 21st, and from May 24th – May 28th. The supplemental benefits will be available the next day following issuance. The supplements 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 schedule to all districts outside of NYC as follows:

- May 11, 2021 – May 15, 2021
- May 18, 2021 – May 22, 2021

Eligible cases will be in pending status on May 11th – 14th and May 18th – 21st. Due to the volume of cases receiving supplements this month, additional issuance days, beyond those noted above, may be necessary. The mass-authorized supplemental SNAP benefits will be available to recipients in EBT after midnight on the day after authorization.

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