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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	22 TA/DC021 Upstate and New York City
Date:	March 04, 2022
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, SNAP Directors, TA Directors, WMS Coordinators, Medicaid Directors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	COVID-19 March 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:	Attachment 1 – 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 receive benefits for the month of March 2022. 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, effective October 1, 2021.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT
1	\$250
2	\$459
3	\$658
4	\$835
5	\$992
6	\$1190
7	\$1316
8	\$1504
For each additional member	+\$188

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 March 2022. 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 March 2022 will be issued on staggered schedules as described below.

New York City

The EA supplements will be issued from March 17 through March 30, 2022. 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 were and will be authorized on a staggered schedule to all districts outside of NYC as follows:

- March 7 – March 10, 2022
- March 13 – March 17, 2022

Eligible cases will be in pending status from March 8 – March 11, and March 14 – March 18, 2022. 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.