



# HUNGER SOLUTIONS

## NEW YORK

UNITING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO END HUNGER

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## SNAP Update

Below is a round-up of recent changes and updates to SNAP policy rules.

### COVID-19 Emergency Allotments to ALL SNAP Recipients in April

Emergency Allotments (EA) of SNAP benefits were authorized by Congress under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. The EA of SNAP will continue each month until the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted in our state or nation.

***Starting in April 2021 all SNAP households are now eligible for the EA supplement benefit.*** In April 2021 EA of SNAP benefits will now be:

- **\$95** a month for those **already receiving the maximum SNAP benefit**,
- **\$95** a month for those **with a calculated EA amount of less than \$95**, and
- for all other households the EA amount will equal the difference between their regular monthly SNAP benefit and the maximum benefit for their households' size.

For more detailed information please see the April 13 update to the SNAP section of our [COVID-19 page](#).

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### The American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan Act, signed into law on March 11, 2021, includes several provisions that impact SNAP rules for eligibility, budgeting, and benefit amount. These provisions include:

#### 15% SNAP Boost Extended to September 30, 2021

The Act extends the 15% boost to the maximum monthly SNAP benefit allotment (AKA: Thrifty Food Plan) through September 30, 2021. The resources in our [SNAP toolkit](#) have been updated to reflect this extension.

## **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Insurance Payments Extended to September 6, 2021**

The Act extends both Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) through September 6, 2021. These programs are for workers who are ineligible for regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB).

The Act also extends the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Payments (FPUC) through September 6, 2021. The FPUC provides an additional \$300 or \$100, depending on individual circumstances, to the weekly UIB payments of eligible workers.

Under SNAP rules:

- **UIB/PUA/PEUC** payments **COUNT as unearned income**.
- **FPUC \$300/\$100** payments are **EXCLUDED as income and resources** in the **month of receipt and for 9 months following receipt**.
- **Retroactive FPUC** payments are **EXCLUDED as income**.

### **Stimulus Checks**

The Act authorizes 2021 Recovery Rebate Payments (AKA: stimulus checks) for individuals and children.

Under SNAP rules:

- **Stimulus checks** are **EXCLUDED as income** in the month of receipt.
- **Stimulus checks** are **EXCLUDED as a resource** for **12 months** following receipt.

### **2021 Child Tax Credits (CTC)**

The Act expands the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and allows households with children to claim up to \$3,600. Households can elect to receive their credit in advance monthly payments.

Under SNAP rules:

- **CTC** are **EXCLUDED as income** in the month of receipt. This applies to CTC received as either an annual payment or advance monthly payment.
- **CTC** are **EXCLUDED as a resource** for **12 months** following receipt.

For more detailed information, please see the April 2 update to the SNAP section of our [COVID-19 page](#).

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## **SNAP Interview Waivers Extended in NYS through June 30, 2021**

Due to the pandemic, SNAP offices are not required to interview a new or recertifying

household if the applicant's identity has been verified and other mandatory information has been provided and validated. Interview waivers also apply to new SNAP applications that are eligible for expedited processing.

For more detailed information please see the April 5 update to the SNAP section of our [COVID-19 page](#).

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## **USDA Drops SNAP Rule that Limits States' Ability to Obtain ABAWD Waivers**

USDA [recently announced](#) it was ending a policy that dramatically reduced states' ability to request ABAWD waivers. Under normal circumstances, childless adults between the ages of 18 and 49—referred to in SNAP regulations as Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)—are subject to a time limit rule unless they are working or enrolled in a work program for 80 hours each month. However, states can request waivers of the time limit so people looking for stable employment can continue to receive needed food assistance. The ABAWD rule is temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, but is set to return when the public health emergency ends. Preserving flexibility for ABAWD waivers enables states to more effectively respond to spikes in hunger that result from high unemployment.

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