



## **Update Regarding COVID-19 & SNAP**

### **NY Reinstates the SNAP Interview Adjustment Waivers and Certification Extension Period Waiver Options**

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The Continuing Resolution (CR) recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the President on October 1, 2020, reinstated the SNAP interview adjustment waivers and certification extension period waiver originally authorized under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The CR reinstated and extended the availability of these waivers through June 30, 2021.

In NYS, these waivers will be in effect from October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. These waivers are optional for SNAP offices. Meaning SNAP offices have a choice in implementing these waivers.

#### **Interview at Initial Application and Recertification**

SNAP offices are not required to interview a household at initial application or recertification through December 30, 2020 if the following conditions are met:

- the applicant's identity has been verified; and,
- all other mandatory information and verification has been provided and is valid.

#### **New Applications Eligible for Expedited Processing**

SNAP offices can choose to apply the following rules through December 30, 2020:

- SNAP applications found eligible for expedited processing may be processed and an expedited benefit issued without an interview being attempted or taking place if the following conditions are met:
  - the applicant's identity has been verified; and

- the applicant has provided enough information for the SNAP office to determine eligibility and calculate a SNAP benefit.

### **Six-month Extension on Recertifications**

NYS is allowing SNAP offices to again extend recertifications in order to help re-distribute and balance the SNAP recertification workload over the next federal fiscal year and to promote timely approval of benefits for eligible households. Important details include:

- SNAP offices are not required to extend certification periods for SNAP households.
- SNAP households that already received a six-month extension previously (March 2020 – June 2020 and July 2020 in NYC only) are not eligible for any further extensions.

For more details including the policy memo from OTDA and other important information go to our [COVID-19 webpage](#).

## **SNAP Emergency Allotments to Families/Individuals Receiving SNAP in October**

Emergency Allotments (EA) of SNAP benefits were authorized by Congress under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) previously approved NYS's plan to distribute EA of SNAP benefits each month from March – September of this year. FNS recently approved NYS's request to provide EA for SNAP recipients in the month of October.

It is important to remember that on October 1st the monthly maximum benefits for SNAP households increased. See our [updated budget worksheet](#) (page 2, Chart D) with the new maximum monthly benefits per household size.

### **Issuance Schedule for October 2020 EA supplemental SNAP benefits:**

- In NYC: issuance based on case toe-digit, starting on 10/15 and ending on 10/28
- Rest of State: issuance based on each districts caseload which will be divided randomly, from 10/19 through 10/22 and from 10/26 through 10/29.
- For all households the SNAP EA benefits will be available to eligible families the day after they are issued per the schedules above.

Keep watching [our COVID-19 page](#) for more details as they become available.

## Read full updates on our COVID-19 Webpage

Hunger Solutions New York will continue to send email updates, post updates to our website, and use Facebook and Twitter to share information. Thank you for your continued efforts to help New Yorkers with needed access to food during this time.

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