



Update Regarding COVID-19 & SNAP

SNAP Emergency Allotments to Families/Individuals Receiving SNAP in December

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 – November of this year. FNS recently approved NYS's request to provide EA for SNAP recipients in the month of December.

Issuance Schedule for December 2020 EA Supplemental SNAP Benefits:

- In NYC: issuance based on last digit in the case number, from 12/14 through 12/18, and from 12/21 through 12/23, and 12/28 and 12/29/20.
- Rest of State: issuance based on each districts caseload which will be divided randomly, from 12/7 through 12/10, and from 12/14 through 12/17/2020.
- For all households the SNAP EA benefits will be available to eligible families the day after they are issued per the schedules above.

Go to [our COVID-19 page](#) for more details.

New SNAP Only Application for Seniors and People with Disabilities

NYS recently introduced a simplified SNAP only application for people 60 and older or those with a disability. This new application is part of a larger effort to simplify the SNAP application/recertification process for these vulnerable populations known as the Elderly

Simplified Application Project (ESAP) which will begin in NYS in 2021.

What is ESAP?

The [Elderly Simplified Application Project](#) (ESAP) is a demonstration project designed to dramatically simplify the SNAP application and verification process for eligible households, while also reducing the administrative burden on states. In approved states, SNAP applicants are eligible for ESAP if all household members are age 60 or older and have no earned income. States can also elect to include disabled households. Effective ESAPs have the potential to do three things:

- Increase SNAP participation among seniors and people with disabilities
- Improve the customer experience for these vulnerable households
- Achieve administrative efficiencies for state agencies

New SNAP Only Application/Recertification for Seniors/Disabled

The simplified application/recertification form (LDSS-5166) has been created for use by households where all the member are 60 or older or disabled and have no earned income. The new application has been reduced to 2 pages of requested information. NYS is able to provide this simplification because the unearned income most often received by seniors and disabled people can be verified through data matching. Additionally, other eligibility factors that must be documented before a person can be determined eligible for SNAP can also be verified through data matching; making the process less time consuming and difficult for these vulnerable populations.

Additional Resources

- [OTDA Policy Memo on the SNAP Only Application](#)
- [LDSS-5166 Application/Recertification for SNAP Benefits **English**](#)
- [LDSS-5166 Application Recertification for SNAP Benefits **Spanish**](#)

Keep watching our website for more information on ESAP in NYS in the coming months.

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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