



# How to Maximize SNAP for Seniors

Presented by:

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# Thank you to our funder:

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**AARP** Foundation®

# Hunger Solutions New York is a statewide anti-hunger organization.

We increase **awareness** of, **support** for, and **participation** in federal nutrition assistance programs.



- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

# Agenda

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- Goals of the Network
- SNAP and Seniors in NYS
- Applying for SNAP
- SNAP changes in NYS
- Next Steps

# Goals of the Network

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**Connect** eligible yet unenrolled seniors to SNAP through:

- **Education**
- **Collaboration**
- **Information sharing**

# Poll Break

## Barriers to Access



# SNAP & Seniors in New York State



**HUNGER SOLUTIONS**  
NEW YORK  
UNITING POLICIES AND  
PROGRAMS TO END HUNGER

SNAP & Seniors in New York State

11/5/21

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# Benefits of SNAP

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Helps seniors age in place

- retains autonomy and independence
- frees up money for prescriptions

Lower healthcare costs

- fewer inpatient hospitalizations
- fewer emergency department visits
- fewer long term care admissions
- fewer dollars in Medicaid payments per person



# NYS Monthly SNAP Benefits

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- \$20** minimum benefit amount for seniors
- \$290** average benefit for households with seniors and children (with no other adult)
- \$158** average benefit amount for live-alone seniors
- \$166** average snap benefit amount for households with seniors

# SNAP Rules for Seniors

- Expanded categorical eligibility
- Separate household status for elderly/disabled
- Medical deductions
- Telephone interviews
- Authorized representatives
- Senior Farmer Market nutrition program & other SNAP incentive programs.



# Expanded Categorical Eligibility

## Poverty Guidelines Chart

*effective 10/1/21 - 9/30/22*

| Family Size            | 200% of Poverty<br>Monthly GROSS Income | 150% of Poverty<br>Monthly GROSS Income | 130% of Poverty<br>Monthly GROSS Income |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1                      | \$2,147                                 | \$1,610                                 | \$1,396                                 |
| 2                      | \$2,903                                 | \$2,178                                 | \$1,888                                 |
| 3                      | \$3,660                                 | \$2,745                                 | \$2,379                                 |
| 4                      | \$4,417                                 | \$3,313                                 | \$2,871                                 |
| 5                      | \$5,173                                 | \$3,880                                 | \$3,363                                 |
| 6                      | \$5,930                                 | \$4,448                                 | \$3,855                                 |
| 7                      | \$6,687                                 | \$5,015                                 | \$4,347                                 |
| 8                      | \$7,443                                 | \$5,583                                 | \$4,839                                 |
| Each Additional Person | +\$757                                  | \$568                                   | +\$492                                  |

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# Medical Deduction

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- 19% of snap households containing a senior or a person with a disability claim the medical deduction.
- Expenses can include but are not limited to dental care, eyeglasses, and health insurance premiums.
- \$169 is the average medical deduction in NYS.



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# Application & Assistance

# How to Apply for SNAP in NYS

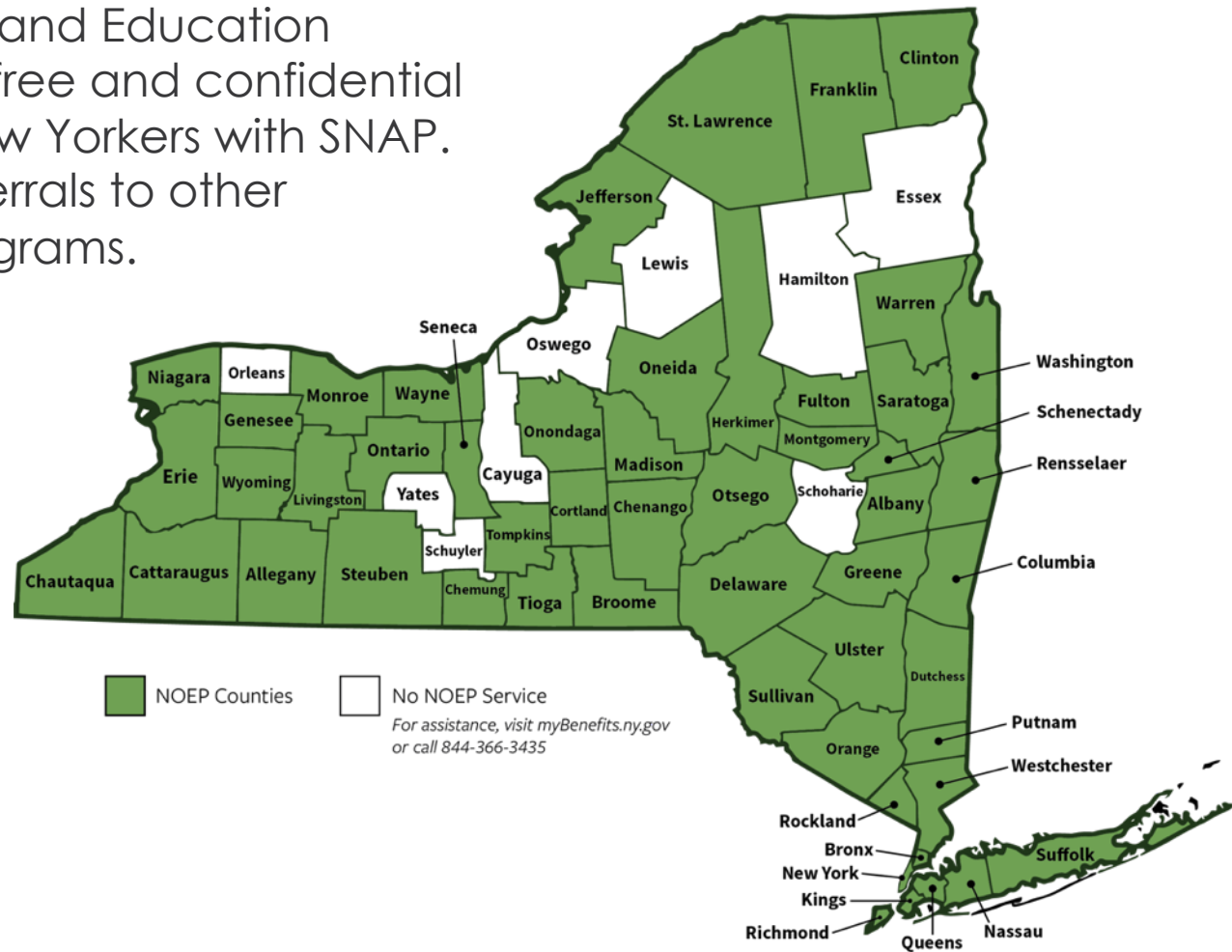
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- Online Application: [mybenefits.NY.gov](https://mybenefits.ny.gov)
- Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) local coordinators
- In person at local DSS or NYC-HRA office
- Paper application
- Alternative format applications
- Autoenrollment via the New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP)

# Nutrition Outreach & Education Program

The Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) offers free and confidential services to connect New Yorkers with SNAP. NOEP also provides referrals to other nutrition assistance programs.

To find a local NOEP Coordinator, visit [FoodHelpNY.org](https://FoodHelpNY.org)





# NOEP Coordinators

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- Community outreach campaigns, presentations and events
- Pre-screen for eligibility and assist with SNAP application
- Gather documents, fill out, and submit a SNAP application
- Offer translation services, home visits, and in-person, e-mail, or over-the-phone assistance
- Work with local government offices to ensure each application is processed correctly
- Help resolve barriers to SNAP participation
- Assist with recertifications
- Education and referrals about other nutrition assistance programs (summer meals, school meals)



# Poll Break

NOEP

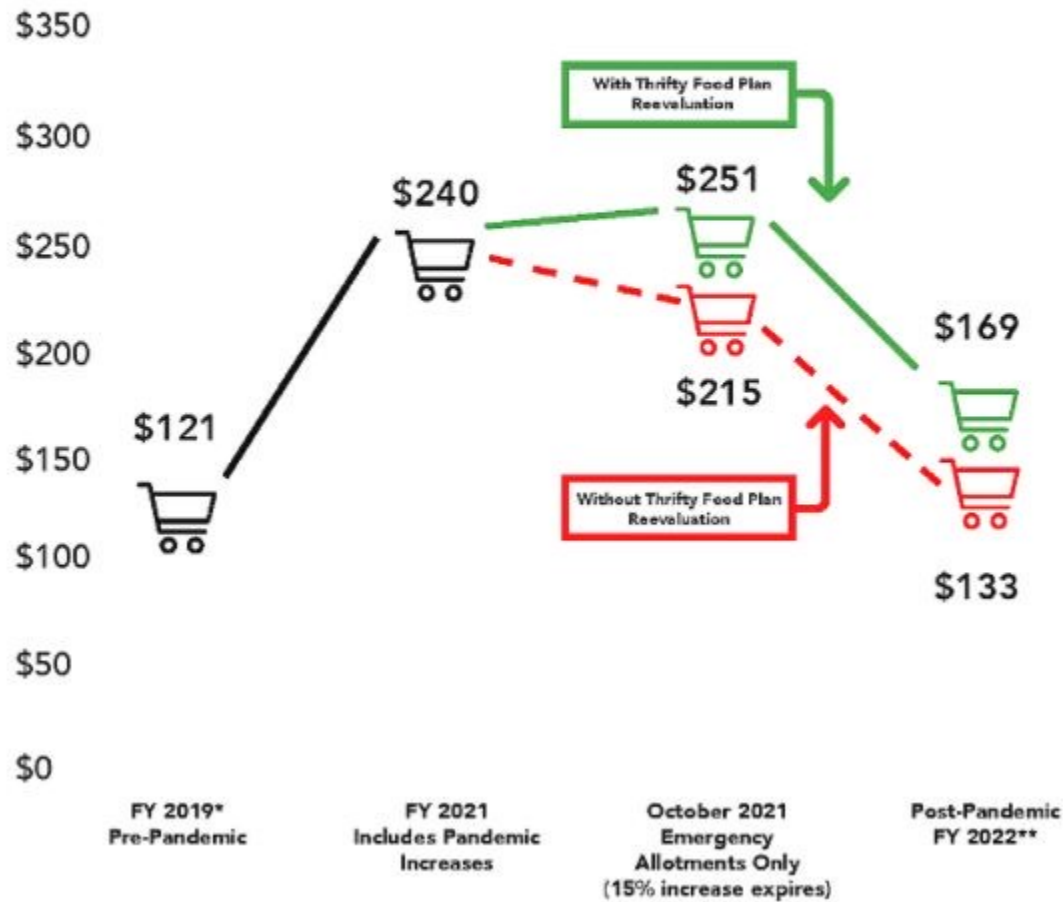
# SNAP Policy Updates in NYS

# Thrifty Food Plan Increase

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- 21% Increase for Fiscal Year 2022 began on October 1, 2021.
- Most households should have seen an increase in their October and November SNAP benefits, usually between \$12 - \$16 per person per month.
- This increase excludes additional funds provided as part of pandemic relief.

# SNAP Average Monthly Per Person Benefits FY 2019 - FY 2022 (Projected)



# Emergency Allotment

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- USDA has granted waivers allowing the issuance of emergency allotments (supplements) based on the Covid-19 public health emergency
- Supplemental Emergency Allotment (EA) of SNAP Benefits began in March 2020 shortly after the pandemic began. Approved month-to-month.
- The minimum EA benefit is \$95 regardless of household size



# Elderly Simplified Application Project

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- Will be implemented 12/1 in NYS

ESAP can help:

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

# ESAP

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Once implemented, qualifying seniors can expect to have:

- A shorter 2-page SNAP application,
  - 36-month recertification period,
  - No interview at recertification time.
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- Only applies to senior households with no earned income

# New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP)

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- Automatic SNAP enrollment for seniors that receive SSI and live alone.
- New enrollees must utilize their benefits on their SNAP account within 90 days of their case opening or their case will be closed.
- NYSNIP will be transitioning to “NYS Combined Application Project” (NYSCAP) later this year.

# SNAP Online Retailers

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ALDI

Amazon

BJs Wholesale Club

Ferreira Foodtown

Food Bazaar

Foodtown-Freshtown

Hannaford

My Foodtown

Price Chopper  
Supermarkets

ShopRite

Stop & Shop

Tops Market

Walmart

# Poll Break

Topics for Future Learning

# SNAP & Seniors Professional Network

Nearly 200,000 older New Yorkers may be eligible for but not receiving  
SNAP benefits





## SNAP Helps 600,000 Seniors in New York Put Food on the Table



### SNAP Helps Seniors Stay Healthy

SNAP can help seniors on a tight budget afford nutritious food. Good nutrition can help with chronic conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure.

### Using SNAP Is Easy

SNAP provides monthly benefits on an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card. You can use this card to buy food at grocery stores and farmer's markets. You can also use SNAP to shop online at certain stores.

### Special Rules Help More Seniors Get SNAP

If you're 60 or over you can apply as a senior. Seniors may be able to:

- Qualify for SNAP even with income and savings.
- Deduct medical costs, which can mean more help to buy food each month.
- Use a shorter application, have less paperwork, and keep benefits longer.

### Apply for SNAP

Apply online at [myBenefits.NY.gov](http://myBenefits.NY.gov) or in person at your local DSS (SNAP) office.

### Get Help

If you need help, contact the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP). NOEP Coordinators can answer your questions and help you apply for SNAP. It is free and confidential. Find your local NOEP Coordinator at **[FoodHelpNY.org](http://FoodHelpNY.org)**



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[SNAPandSeniorsNY.org](http://SNAPandSeniorsNY.org)

# Poll Break

Outreach

# Next Steps...

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Continue with virtual learning events to support

- ESAP rollout 12/1
- Outreach best practices

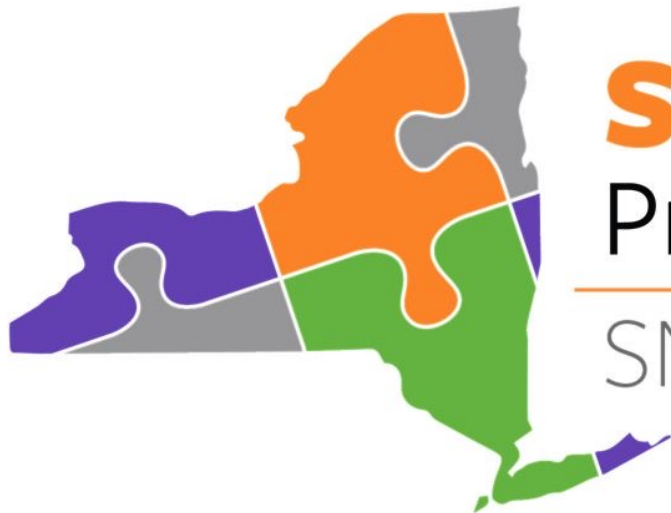
Webpage updates

- [www.SNAPandSeniorsNY.org](http://www.SNAPandSeniorsNY.org)
- Outreach flyer

# Questions?

# Thank you for joining!

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## **SNAP & Seniors** Professional Network

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SNAPandSeniorsNY.org