

**From:** [Gold, Andrea - FNS](#)  
**To:** [Henschel, Matthew - FNS](#); [Volpe, Maria - FNS](#); [Pasquaretta, Kevin](#); [Magee, Robin - FNS](#); [West, Jheanell - FNS](#); [Brathwaite, Bonnie - FNS](#); [Messner, Kurt - FNS](#)  
**Cc:** [Hortin, Steve - FNS](#); [Kreh, Tim - FNS](#); [Opara, Felix - FNS](#); [Nichols, Nadine - FNS](#); [Shahin, Jessica - FNS](#); [Griffin, Laura - FNS](#); [Pierce, Shelly - FNS](#); [Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS](#); [Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS](#); [Patyk, Karen - FNS](#); [DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS](#); [Maloney, Wayne - RD, Washington, DC](#); [Abelev, Melissa - FNS](#); [Hardison, Brooke - FNS](#); [Garcia, Kristin - FNS](#); [Gold, Andrea - FNS](#); [Lucas, Richard - FNS](#); [Muns, Tamiaka - FNS](#); [Billger, Hans - FNS](#); [Kaup, Glenn - FNS](#); [Mouw, Traci - FNS](#); [Carrasco, Rogelio - FNS](#); [Noble, John \(David\) - FNS](#); [Swezy, Shanta - FNS](#); [Carter, Scott - FNS](#); [Castillo, Georgina - FNS](#); [Koster, Patrick - FNS](#); [Shelby, Carolyn - FNS](#); [Burr, David - FNS](#); [Greenwood, Lisa - FNS](#); [Pauley, Edward - FNS](#); [Gold, Andrea - FNS](#)  
**Subject:** COVID-19: MA Emergency Allotments Approval  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 4:30:30 PM  
**Attachments:** MA Emergency Allotment Waiver - signed.pdf

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NERO Team,

Please consider this FNS' approval of Massachusetts' attached request to issue Emergency Allotments (EA) to all ongoing SNAP households in the State of Massachusetts.

This approval will allow the State to issue EA to ongoing SNAP households for March and April 2020, increasing their current monthly allotment up to the maximum monthly allotment for a household of that size. Ongoing SNAP households that already receive the maximum monthly allotment for their household size are not eligible for EA. All EA will be delivered on ongoing SNAP households' EBT cards.

Please ask the State to confirm receipt and REPLY ALL, upon notice of the State's confirmation of receipt. We would also ask the State to alert any contacts they may have in the retailer community of the emergency issuance and its timing, so stores can stock up in preparation.

Thanks, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Andrea

Andrea Gold-O'Connor  
Director  
SNAP, Retailer and Issuance Policy  
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service  
1320 Braddock Place, Room 518  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>

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**Waiver Request to Provide Emergency Allotments (Supplements)  
to SNAP Households**

1. **Type of request:** Initial
2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act
3. **State:** Massachusetts
4. **Proposed Alternate Procedures:**

The State proposes to provide an emergency allotment to address temporary food needs to households to bring all households up to the maximum benefit due to pandemic related economic conditions for up to 2 months. Contingent upon the availability of funding and ongoing need, USDA may approve additional months of emergency issuance with an extension request from the State.

These households are eligible for temporary emergency allotments because:

- There is a public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and there is a State-wide emergency or disaster declaration (copy attached); and
- Due to Covid-19: [Check all that apply]:
  - ✓ Residents of the State are confirmed to have contracted Covid-19
  - ✓ Some or all areas of the State are containment or quarantine zones
  - ✓ Businesses have closed or significantly reduced their hours
  - ✓ The State's residents have experienced economic impacts due to job suspensions or losses
  - ✓ The State's residents have been directed to practice social distancing

**Issuing Emergency Allotments to Current SNAP Households:**

Supplemental emergency allotments would be issued in the following manner:

In March 2020

- On a single date [specify]: It is our understanding in speaking to Conduent that issuing all of March supplemental benefits on a single date is feasible and is the Department's preference. Should we receive additional information from Conduent that the file transfer may interfere with the EBT system in a negative way the Department will split up the issuance over the course of two days based on SSN.
- Over a series of days as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

- Staggered as follows: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other [please explain]: \_\_\_\_\_

In subsequent months, emergency allotments should be provided in accordance with the State's regular issuance schedule.

The State may provide the emergency allotment(s) without contacting the household. While individual notification is not required, States should notify clients consistent with SNAP requirements for mass changes, including notice that emergency allotments will be issued for up to 2 months. Should this schedule change and additional months are approved during the public health emergency, the State will provide a subsequent mass change notice at that time.

All emergency allotments will be delivered on the household's EBT card.

The State's SNAP agency also agrees to complete the FNS-292 on a timely basis in accordance with requirements as well as all other normally recurring SNAP reporting included the FNS 46 and 388 reports, on a timely basis in accordance with requirements.

In addition, The State agency will submit weekly reports to FNS with the following information for the entire State:

- The value of EA issued.
- The average issuance amount per household.
- The number of households issued EA

**Justification for Request:** Coronavirus COVID-19, as provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

5. **Affected Caseload:**

**One month** estimates for existing SNAP households under these procedures:

- Number of households receiving emergency allotments benefits: 248,094
- Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: \$ 37,995,534.00
- Number of months requested (2-month limit): 2 months

USDA reserves the right to withdraw or otherwise modify this approval subject to availability of funding

6. **Anticipated Implementation Date:**

March 28, 2020

7. **Signature and Title of Requesting Official:**

- Staggered as follows: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other [please explain]: \_\_\_\_\_

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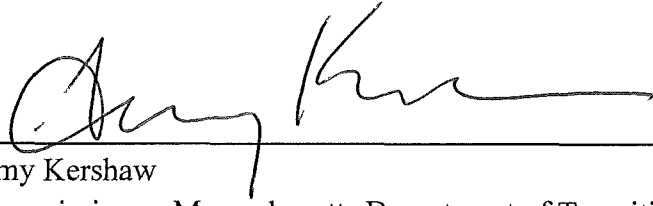
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7. **Signature and Title of Requesting Official:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Kershaw", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Amy Kershaw

Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance

8. **Date of Request:** March 23, 2020