

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

Section 2302(a)(1) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, allows States to request COVID-19 Emergency Allotments (EA) “for households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program to address temporary food needs.” Pursuant to the interpretation that is explained in detail in “FNS Determination of Enhanced Emergency Allotments April 1, 2021” and hereby incorporated by reference, FNS has adopted the following policy approach.

States shall calculate EA as follows:

EA Minimum Benefit

1. Determine the household’s base SNAP benefit level using the current temporary level of 115 percent of TFP.
2. EA is the difference between the SNAP household’s base benefit calculation and the maximum benefit for the household size; except that
3. All households receive EA of at least \$95
 - a) Those households currently receiving \$95 or more will continue to receive that same amount—no change in EA for these households
 - b) Those households receiving the maximum base SNAP benefit for their household size at the current temporary level of 115 percent of TFP will receive EA of \$95 per month.
 - c) Those households with a calculated EA amount less than \$95 will receive EA totaling \$95 per month.

States must continue to report EA separately from the base SNAP benefit amount.

Approval for EA will continue to be granted when:

- The national public health emergency declaration that was extended on January 21, 2021, by the Secretary for Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act remains in place, and
- The State-issued emergency or disaster declaration remains in place, and the State meets the conditions outlined in the EA request template that follows.

In addition, to allow for State EA phase-out upon expiration of the State’s emergency declaration, States may request EA approval for one additional issuance month if:

- The national public health emergency declaration that was extended on January 21, 2021, by the Secretary for Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act remains in place, and
- The State-issued emergency or disaster declaration has expired or will expire in the current month. This will allow a State that has lost or will lose its declaration in the current month to provide one additional issuance month of EA and to notify SNAP participants that EA benefits will be ending. For example, for phase-out purposes, a State whose declaration expires in February may request EA for March. March is then considered the State’s EA phase-out month. Without a renewed State-level emergency declaration, the State would no longer be eligible to provide EA in April.

