



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service
1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

DATE: April 1, 2021

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Emergency Allotments

TO: All SNAP State Agencies
All Food and Nutrition Service Regional SNAP Directors

Issuing Agency/Office:	FNS/SNAP
Title of Document:	Emergency Allotment Guidance
Document ID:	
Z-RIN:	
Date of Issuance:	
Replaces:	Updated State EA Guidance Memo dated April 21, 2020
Summary:	The following provides updated Emergency Allotment guidance to State agencies.
Disclaimer:	The contents of this guidance document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public or FNS in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act authorized emergency allotments to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households to help address temporary food needs during the pandemic.

Since March 2020, SNAP households have received Emergency Allotments (EA) in an amount equal to the maximum benefit for the household size, minus their monthly base benefit. This means households that are at or near the maximum SNAP benefit received little or no additional support.

The President's *Executive Order on Economic Relief Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, issued January 22, 2021, directed all Federal agencies to consider administrative actions to better address the current economic crisis resulting from the pandemic. When the Executive Order was released, the White House called on USDA to consider allowing larger Emergency Allotments for the lowest income SNAP households. FNS has reviewed this policy and determined that a new approach to EA will provide greater equity for households most in need. Pursuant to the interpretation that is explained in detail in "FNS Determination of Enhanced Emergency Allotments [Date]" and hereby incorporated by reference, we have adopted the following policy approach set forth in this memorandum and its attachments.

This memorandum supersedes the March 20, 2020, and April 21, 2020 guidance, and conveys a policy change that advances the goals of the Executive Order and the President's call to reevaluate EA policy. Under this new policy, households who had not been receiving EA payments and those whose EA payments were less than \$95 per month will receive increased benefits. EA payments will not change for households who had been receiving EA benefits of \$95 or more per month. States approved to issue EA must adjust the EA calculation as described in this memorandum beginning with the April 2021 EA issuance.

Further, this memorandum describes the EA phase-out process States may avail themselves of when their State-level emergency declaration expiration date is imminent.

State Template – FFCRA SNAP Emergency Allotment Request

States must provide the following to their FNS Regional SNAP contact(s) for each month covered by this request.

State/Territory: NH

1. [May] EA Issuance date(s): May 6, 2021 and May 25, 2021

(Provide exact dates of planned EA issuance for the month or annotate above if the State will be providing EA benefits in accordance with the State’s regular issuance schedule.)

2. [May] estimate of the number of households and estimated EA amount:

Number of households receiving emergency allotment benefits: 33,362

Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued per month: \$6,249,222.70

3. **Confirmation** that one or more of the following conditions exists 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

And

The State’s emergency or disaster declaration remains active USDA reserves

Attached