



Food and Nutrition Service  
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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

<b>Issuing Agency/Office:</b>	FNS/SNAP
<b>Title of Document:</b>	Emergency Allotment Guidance
<b>Document ID:</b>	
<b>Z-RIN:</b>	
<b>Date of Issuance:</b>	
<b>Replaces:</b>	<a href="#">Updated State EA Guidance Memo dated April 21, 2020</a>
<b>Summary:</b>	The following provides updated Emergency Allotment guidance to state agencies.
<b>Disclaimer:</b>	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.



**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 ~~VWDWHM~~ 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.

## 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: Ohio

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1. [October 2021] EA Issuance date(s):

Ohio will not provide October emergency allotments with the regular issuance schedule. All allotments are expected to be issued on 10/28/21. Any application for October approved after 10/28/21 will require the worker to do a manual supplement after approving the application. EA supplements for households approved after 10/28/21 are issued the day after approval so that the approval notice reflects the correct ongoing amount. Then when the supplement is issued the following day the notice indicates it is a supplement for that month only.

2. [October 2021] estimate of the number of households and estimated EA amount:

Number of households receiving emergency allotment benefits: 693,903  
Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued per month: \$115,666,885

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