



# SNAP BENEFITS

## THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

In response to the pandemic, Congress temporarily increased SNAP benefits in two ways: raising all benefits by 15% and boosting every household to the maximum benefit for their household size. In April 2021, USDA took action to ensure that boost increased benefits for all households by at least \$95 to help very low-income families who already received the maximum benefit – or close to it – before the pandemic.

The 15% increase expired for everyone on September 30, 2021. The maximum benefit boost ends when a participant's state or the federal government ends their pandemic emergency status.

Separate from COVID, Congress directed USDA to study the costs required to purchase a healthy diet. As a result, SNAP benefit amounts have been permanently adjusted as of October 1, 2021, to provide 40-cents more per person, per meal.

**To see what all these changes look like in action, we'd like to introduce you to five sample SNAP families.**

### THE JOHNSONS

**Before the pandemic,** they received **\$449 per month** in SNAP benefits.

In response to the pandemic, Congress increased their benefits by 15% above the maximum benefit for a household of three. Therefore:

**With pandemic benefits,** the Johnsons received **\$616 per month.**

Then, in April 2021, USDA's policy change further boosted their benefits, so:

**With the added boost,** the Johnsons received **\$651 per month.**

On October 1, the 15% increase expired and the 40-cents per person, per meal increase began at the same time. Because their state is still under a pandemic emergency, the Johnsons continued to receive the maximum benefit for a household of three. As a result:

**Beginning October 2021,** the Johnsons are receiving **\$693 per month.**

When their state or the federal government ends their pandemic emergency status, families like the Johnsons, who are not normally eligible for the maximum benefit, will return to the amount based on their household size and situation.

**When the pandemic emergency status ends,** they'll receive **\$598 per month.**

This is higher than their pre-COVID benefit because of the permanent adjustment.



#### THE JOHNSONS

Dad works an hourly job to take care of his two kids.



# SNAP BENEFITS

## THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

### THE O'NEILS

**Before the pandemic,** they received **\$355 per month** in SNAP benefits.

In response to the pandemic, Congress increased their benefits by 15%. They were already receiving the maximum benefit for a household of two. Therefore:

**With pandemic benefits,** the O'Neils received **\$430 per month.**

Then, in April 2021, USDA's policy change further boosted their benefits, so:

**With the added boost,** the O'Neils received **\$525 per month.**

On October 1, the 15% increase expired and the 40-cents per person, per meal increase began at the same time. Because their state is still under a pandemic emergency, the O'Neils will continue to receive the additional boost that started in April. As a result:

**Beginning October 2021,** the O'Neils are receiving **\$554 per month.**

When their state or the federal government ends their pandemic emergency status, families like the O'Neils will continue to receive the maximum benefit for a household of two but will no longer receive the additional boost that started in April.

**When the pandemic emergency status ends,** they'll receive **\$459 per month.**

This is higher than their pre-COVID benefit because of the permanent adjustment.



#### THE O'NEILS

Mom is currently unemployed and cares for her young daughter. They qualify for the maximum benefit.



#### THE JONESES

Mom and grandma both work part time while taking care of three kids. Their state ended its pandemic emergency declaration.

### THE JONESES

**Before the pandemic,** they received **\$618 per month** in SNAP benefits.

In response to the pandemic, Congress increased their benefits increased to 15% above the 2020 maximum benefit for a household of five. Therefore:

**With pandemic benefits,** the Joneses received **\$929 per month.**

When the Joneses' state ended its pandemic emergency status, families like the Joneses, who are not normally eligible for the maximum benefit, returned to a benefit amount based on their household size and situation, plus the 15% increase. So:

**Without the maximum benefit,** the Joneses received **\$779 per month.**

On October 1, the 15% increase expired and the 40-cents per person, per meal increase began at the same time. As a result:

**Beginning October 2021,** they are receiving **\$842 per month.**

This is higher than their pre-COVID benefit because of the permanent adjustment.



# SNAP BENEFITS

## THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

### MR. SMITH

**Before the pandemic,** he received **\$16 per month** in SNAP benefits.

In response to the pandemic, Congress increased his benefits to 15% above the 2020 maximum benefit for a household of one. Therefore:

**With pandemic benefits,** Mr. Smith received **\$234 per month.**

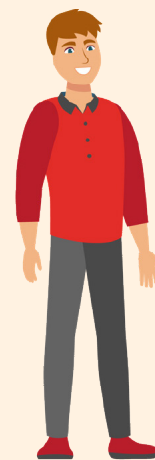
On October 1, the 15% increase expired and the 40-cents per person, per meal increase began at the same time. Because his state is still under a pandemic emergency, Mr. Smith continues to receive the maximum benefit for a household of one. As a result:

**Beginning October 2021,** Mr. Smith is receiving **\$250 per month.**

When his state or the federal government ends their pandemic emergency status, individuals like Mr. Smith, who normally qualifies for the minimum benefit based on his household size and situation, will return to the minimum benefit amount.

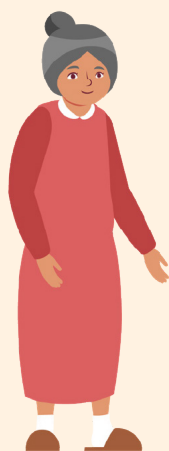
**When the pandemic emergency status ends,** he'll receive **\$20 per month.**

This is higher than his pre-COVID benefit because of the permanent adjustment.



**MR. SMITH**

Mr. Smith has a seasonal job and qualifies for the minimum benefit.



**MS. GREEN**

Ms. Green is a senior who no longer works and receives \$500 per month in Social Security payments.

### MS. GREEN

**Before the pandemic,** she received **\$44 per month** in SNAP benefits.

In response to the pandemic, her benefits increased to 15% above the 2020 maximum benefit for a household of one. Therefore:

**With pandemic benefits,** Ms. Green received **\$234 per month.**

On October 1, the 15% increase expired and the 40-cents per person, per meal increase began at the same time. Because her state is still under a pandemic emergency, Ms. Green will continue to receive the maximum benefit for a household of one. As a result:

**Beginning October 2021,** Ms. Green is receiving **\$250 per month.**

When her state or the federal government ends their pandemic emergency status, individuals like Ms. Green, who are not normally eligible for the maximum benefit, will return to the amount based on their household size and situation.

**When the pandemic emergency status ends,** she'll receive **\$100 per month.**

This is higher than her pre-COVID benefit because of the permanent adjustment.