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Temporary Changes to the SNAP Program

In response to the coronavirus outbreak, RI Department of Human Services (DHS) has adopted some temporary changes to the SNAP program to help Rhode Islanders get food for themselves and their families.



If you have problems with SNAP or other public benefits, please call Rhode Island Legal Services' Public Benefits Unit. We can be reached at 401-274-2652. We will be working remotely until further notice. For that reason, please leave us a message with your phone number and the best time to reach you. An advocate will then return your call.¹

¹ Readers are encouraged to review the underlying information here and reminded that this bulletin is for informational purposes only. It does not create an attorney-client relationship.

Supplemental Benefits:

There is a federal monthly maximum SNAP benefit per household size. The federal maximum monthly benefit is \$194 for household of 1, \$355 for household of 2, \$509 for household of 3, and \$646 for household of 4. The federal maximum continues to increase as household size increases.



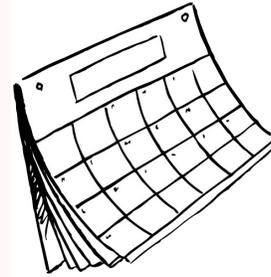
Some households are eligible for the federal maximum and others are not. Food stamp awards are calculated based on each individual household's income and expenses. **DHS will temporarily increase SNAP benefits of *some households* during the Covid-19 crisis.** In April, DHS will issue supplements to households whose SNAP benefits were below the federal monthly maximum for the months of March and April. The supplements will work like this:

- **April 1:** Households will receive their usual SNAP benefit PLUS additional SNAP to bring March's SNAP benefit up to the federal monthly maximum
- **April 8:** Households will receive a second supplemental payment to bring April's SNAP award to the federal monthly maximum

This will bring increased SNAP benefits to about 45% of RI SNAP recipients.

Re-certifications:

Households whose re-certifications are due in March, April, or May should return their certification packets to DHS by the deadline if they can.



Some households may not be able to complete their packets on time. For those households, DHS will extend their certification periods and continue issuing SNAP benefits. DHS will send out new certification packets to these households in the Fall.

Department of Human Services (DHS) Offices

DHS office lobbies are closed. However, individuals and households can still drop off documents. DHS staff will be available to receive those documents and will still be able to process replacement EBT cards.

People can still contact DHS with questions at 1-855-697-4347. DHS has added additional phone lines and has reported that wait times are much shorter.

**Visit the DHS
Website**

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

We all know someone who has been impacted by this crisis. If you need help, our Providence office can be reached at 401.274.2652 and our Newport office can be reached at 401.846.2264. If you'd like to help, [donate here](#). Other helpful resources are available too. You are not alone.



Click the buttons below for more other useful information:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

**RI Office of the Governor,
Gina Raimondo**

US Department of Veteran Affairs

Medicare & Medicaid Resources

Social Security Resource

United Way Rhode Island

RI Coalition for the Homeless

RI Fair Housing

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