

DATE: September 15, 2022

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #22-09-03

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Mass Grant Changes

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Robert Patrick
Acting Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To release changes to SNAP that are effective **October 1, 2022**, in the following areas:

- Heat Standard Utility Allowance
- Non-Heat Limited Utility Allowance
- Non-Heat Standard Utility Allowance
- Asset Limits
- Maximum Shelter Deduction
- Standard Deduction
- Homeless Shelter Allowance
- Income Eligibility Standards
- Maximum Thrifty Food Plan
- Pennsylvania Combined Application Project (PA CAP) Benefit Amounts
- Reporting Requirement Threshold
- Minimum Benefit Amount

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, has revised the limits for the following: heat standard utility allowance, non-heat limited utility allowance, non-heat standard utility allowance, asset limits, maximum shelter deduction, standard deduction, homeless shelter allowance, income eligibility standards, maximum thrifty food plan, PA CAP benefit amounts, reporting requirement thresholds, and minimum benefit amount.

There is no change to the Telephone Allowance for October 2022.

| The following amounts must be used when computing SNAP benefits beginning October 1, 2022: | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
| Minimum Benefit | \$23 | | | | | | | | |
| Standard Income Deduction Based on Household Size | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1-3 persons</td> <td>\$193</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 persons</td> <td>\$193</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 persons</td> <td>\$225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6+ persons</td> <td>\$258</td> </tr> </table> | 1-3 persons | \$193 | 4 persons | \$193 | 5 persons | \$225 | 6+ persons | \$258 |
| 1-3 persons | \$193 | | | | | | | | |
| 4 persons | \$193 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 persons | \$225 | | | | | | | | |
| 6+ persons | \$258 | | | | | | | | |
| Heating Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) | \$679 | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Heating SUA | \$358 | | | | | | | | |
| Telephone Allowance | \$34 | | | | | | | | |
| Limited SUA | \$66 | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum Shelter Deduction | \$624 | | | | | | | | |
| Homeless Shelter Deduction | \$167 | | | | | | | | |
| Reporting Requirement Threshold | | | | | | | | | |
| Reporting Requirement Threshold for Change Reporting Households | \$125 | | | | | | | | |
| Asset Limits | | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Categorically Eligible Households with an Elderly or Disabled Household Member ** | \$4,250 | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Categorically Eligible Households with a Disqualified or Sanctioned Household Member | \$2,750 | | | | | | | | |

**The asset limit for elderly or disabled households also serves as the threshold for excess lottery or gambling winnings for all applicants and recipients.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS OCTOBER 2022

| Household Size | 100 % FPIG | 130 % FPIG | 160 % FPIG | 165 % FPIG | 200 % FPIG | Maximum Thrifty Food Plan |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | \$1,133 | \$1,473 | \$1,813 | \$1,869 | \$2,266 | \$281 |
| 2 | \$1,526 | \$1,984 | \$2,442 | \$2,518 | \$3,052 | \$516 |
| 3 | \$1,920 | \$2,495 | \$3,072 | \$3,167 | \$3,840 | \$740 |
| 4 | \$2,313 | \$3,007 | \$3,701 | \$3,816 | \$4,626 | \$939 |
| 5 | \$2,706 | \$3,518 | \$4,330 | \$4,465 | \$5,412 | \$1,116 |
| 6 | \$3,100 | \$4,029 | \$4,960 | \$5,114 | \$6,200 | \$1,339 |
| 7 | \$3,493 | \$4,541 | \$5,589 | \$5,763 | \$6,986 | \$1,480 |
| 8 | \$3,886 | \$5,052 | \$6,218 | \$6,412 | \$7,772 | \$1,691 |
| 9 | \$4,280 | \$5,564 | \$6,848 | \$7,061 | \$8,560 | \$1,902 |
| 10 | \$4,674 | \$6,076 | \$7,478 | \$7,710 | \$9,348 | \$2,113 |
| Each Additional Member | \$394 | \$512 | \$630 | \$649 | \$788 | \$211 |

The revised values will be added to the appropriate Electronic Client Information System (eCIS) reference tables. Most households participating in SNAP as of the close of business on September 16, 2022 will have their SNAP allotments adjusted automatically through the Mass Change process. This change will be reflected in the October 2022 benefit issuance. eCIS will automatically calculate the SNAP benefits for all openings after September 19, 2022, using the current figures for September and the new figures for October.

Client Notice

Information on the Mass Grant Change will be available via press releases and social media updates.

PA CAP

There will be a Mass Grant Change for PA CAP budgets. The PA CAP benefit amounts are:

| Household Income with Cost of Living Adjustment | Shelter Costs below \$196 Benefit Amount | Shelter Cost at or above \$196 Benefit Amount |
|---|--|---|
| \$863.10 | \$116 | \$156 |
| \$883.10 | \$110 | \$150 |

Case Alerts

The CAO worker will have approximately **seven** workdays in which to take appropriate action and clear the alerts listed below after the Mass Grant Change and before the deadline for the October benefits change for the first digit cases.

REMINDER: It is very important that all cases are completed before the Mass Grant Change runs on September 17, 2022, or all information will be lost, and the CAO will have to re-enter all information for the case.

1. SNAP Budgets with an Active Override Record - #86

During the SNAP Mass Change process, the system will check all SNAP budgets to determine if an active override exists. If an override exists, a case alert will be automatically set for the affected SNAP budget. The Mass Change process will automatically recalculate the net income for the override budget but will not change the existing override benefit amount.

Caseload management will create Case Alert No. 86, type MCEX, Override Exists, Review Due to Mass Change, for each override budget. Alert No. 86 will be created after the Mass Change runs. It will have an immediate due date and must be worker-cleared. CAOs are to review these records and take appropriate action.

CAOs are to review identified records to determine the appropriateness of the override benefit amount.

2. SNAP Budgets that Fail Mass Change - #30

Budgets that fail the gross or net income tests and budgets with a person count of zero on CQFBNF will be posted to an alert No. 30, type MCEX. CAOs are to review these records and re-run eligibility.

REMINDER: SNAP budgets that were in termination status before the Mass Grant Change and reinstated after the change must be checked to verify that any benefits issued before October 1, 2022, were issued using the old SNAP values.

NEXT STEPS

1. Implement these changes effective October 1, 2022.
2. Review case alerts and take appropriate action.
3. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete when incorporated into the SNAP Handbook.