

 <p><b>DHS</b> MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES Department of Human Services 311 West Saratoga Street Baltimore MD 21201</p>	<p><b>FIA INFORMATION MEMO</b></p>
<p><b>Control Number: # 22-19</b></p>	<p><b>Effective Date: Immediately</b> <b>Issuance Date: April 11, 2022</b></p>

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT,  
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: LA SHERRA AYALA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

**RE: EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT BENEFITS TO CONTINUE  
PAST APRIL 2022**

**PROGRAM IMPACTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM**

**OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS**

**SUMMARY**

In March 2020, Maryland began issuing Emergency Allotments (EA) as part of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. SNAP EA is the difference between standard SNAP benefits and the maximum benefits established in the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) for the household size. On April 1, 2021, the federal government established that each SNAP household will receive a minimum \$95 of EA; therefore, the effective benefit amount can be above the TFP maximum for certain households.

To issue SNAP EA benefits, the existence of a national Public Health Emergency (PHE) as well as a state-issued emergency declaration are required. While Maryland’s state of emergency declaration ended on August 15, 2021, FIA has been able to continue EA benefits under a departmental emergency decree. The emergency decree has been renewed allowing SNAP EA benefits to continue until June 30, 2022, or until the end of the national PHE.

Read [AT: 21-28 Increased Emergency Allotment](#) for more details regarding SNAP EA benefits. Below are some examples of how SNAP EA benefits are calculated.

EXAMPLE #1:

- A customer applied for SNAP on April 2, 2022, and was approved for \$250 for a household of one.
- SNAP maximum for a household of one is \$250.
- The customer is receiving the SNAP maximum for a household of one, therefore the customer is not receiving at least \$95 of EA.
- The household's new SNAP allotment is  $\$250 + \$95 \text{ (EA)} = \$345$ .

EXAMPLE #2:

- A customer applied for SNAP on April 2, 2022, and was approved for \$145 for a household of one.
- SNAP maximum for a household of one is \$250.
- The household's new SNAP allotment is \$250 which is the maximum SNAP allotment for a household of one because the increase to the maximum one-person SNAP benefit is more than \$95.

EXAMPLE #3:

- A customer applied for SNAP on April 2, 2022, and was approved for \$504 for a household of three.
- SNAP maximum for a household of three is \$658.
- The household's new SNAP allotment is \$658 which is the maximum SNAP allotment for a household of three because the increase to the maximum three-person SNAP benefit is more than \$95.

Approval to continue to issue EA is approved by our federal partners on a monthly basis.

Resource: [October 2021 Income Guidelines](#)

**INQUIRIES:**

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#) found on Knowledge Base or via email at [fia.policy@maryland.gov](mailto:fia.policy@maryland.gov) for Montgomery County only.

For systems questions, please email [fia.bsdm@maryland.gov](mailto:fia.bsdm@maryland.gov).

cc: DHS Executive Staff  
FIA Management Staff  
Constituent Services  
DHS Help Desk  
Office of Administrative Hearings