

FIA INFORMATION MEMO

Effective Date: March 01, 2023

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: SNAP EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT ENDING FEBRUARY

2023

PROGRAM IMPACTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

PROGRAM (SNAP)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

SUMMARY

The SNAP Emergency Allotments (EA) was a temporary strategy authorized by Congress to help low-income individuals, and families deal with the hardships of the COVID-19 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 actual monthly benefit. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 was passed by Congress to end the emergency allotments effective February 28, 2023. **Starting March 1, 2023, households will only receive their actual benefit amount.**

NEW EA POLICY:

A mass modification will be conducted within the Eligibility and Enrollment system (E&E) on February 24, 2023. No manual changes are required by the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS). Starting March 1, 2023, the allotment indicated within E&E will be based on the actual benefit amount. The EA, also known as the Federal Supplemental amount, will be \$0 effective March 1, 2023.

E&E CHANGES:

Within the E&E system, the ending of the EA will be indicated on the Financial Eligibility Screen. The screenshot below will show where the LDSS will see the EA amount listed.

Example: On the Financial Eligibility screen (see image below), the results show that prior to March 1, 2023, the customer's Actual benefit amount was \$145/month, and the EA (Federal Supplement) was \$371.00. By adding the Actual benefit amount to the EA (Federal Supplement) the customer received the full grant amount of \$516.00. Effective March 1, 2023, customers will only receive the actual benefit amount, and the Federal Supplement amount will show as \$0.00.

Financial Eligibility screen

Benefit Amount	\$516.00	Thrifty Food Plan \$516.00	Actual Benefit Amount
	Federal Supplement	Cash Full Benefit	\$145.00 Minimum Supplement
	\$371.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 Enhanced Additional Amount
	Benefit Amount \$516.00	15% Fed Supp Amt \$0.00	\$0.00 Actual Max Supp Amt \$0.00

NOTE: Any applications processed and found eligible with an application date prior to March 1, 2023, will be entitled to an EA allotment in accordance with Action Transmittal AT: 22-19. The EA allotment will be calculated by the E&E system. No under payments will be required.

Example:

Application received February 27, 2023. The case manager processes and approves the application on March 26, 2023. The household would be eligible for a non prorated February allotment, which will include an EA issuance. The ongoing allotment will not include EA.

All applications received on and or after March 1, 2023 will be subjected to proration.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the <u>FIA Policy Information Request Form</u> found on Knowledge Base or via email at <u>fia.policy@maryland.gov</u> for Montgomery County only.

For systems questions, please email <u>fia.bsdm@maryland.gov</u>.

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