



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance


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Online Guide Transmittal 2020-30B
June 26, 2020

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From:  Sarah, Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: **SNAP: Additional Updates Regarding SNAP Emergency Allotments to Households**

**Overview
and Purpose**

As part of the Families First Coronavirus Act of 2020, Massachusetts obtained a waiver from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to issue SNAP Emergency Allotments to certain households. This Online Guide Transmittal provides updates regarding eligibility for and the processing of SNAP Emergency Allotments.

**May 2020
Benefits**

For the month of May, clients who did not receive the maximum benefit level for their household size were issued the difference in benefits by BEACON, starting on June 3. For all cases, this allotment was issued as a **FSP Administrative Benefit** type and a batch narrative, "COVID-19 FNS Waiver – Emergency SNAP Supplement issued" was automatically entered into the Narrative.

After June 3, clients continue to receive SNAP Emergency Allotments for the month of May as cases continue to be approved for May.

Example: A household of 1 received \$100 for May. The maximum allotment for a household of 1 is \$194. This client was issued a difference of \$94 on June 3.

Note: Based on updated guidance from FNS, households active at zero are not eligible for the Emergency SNAP allotment. These households will not receive a supplement for May or for any future months for which Emergency Allotments are issued.

**June 2020
Benefits**

For the month of June, clients who did not receive the maximum SNAP benefit for their household size or made whole through a supplement issued by a case worker, will receive the difference in benefits on July 2. BEACON will automatically issue this payment as a **FSP Administrative Benefit**.

For the month of June, case workers must select **Supplement/Immediate Issuance** when issuing supplements if the client's net income reduces to zero for that month. These cases will not be issued the SNAP Emergency Allotment for June as they have already received the maximum amount of benefits for their household size.

Example: Household of 1 received \$102 per month in SNAP benefits. The client reports loss of income in June which reduces the household's net income to zero. The maximum allotment for a household of 1 is \$194. The client must be issued the difference of \$92, for June, by the caseworker.

For the example above, the system will not issue a SNAP Emergency Allotment as the client already received the maximum benefit amount. However, if the caseworker did not give the related benefit, the system would automatically issue the SNAP Emergency Allotment with the July 2 sweep. Similar to May's issuance, a batch narrative, "COVID-19 FNS Waiver – Emergency SNAP Supplement issued" will automatically populate in all cases that will be paid this SNAP Emergency Allotment.

After July 2, clients will receive SNAP Emergency Allotments for the month of June as cases continue to be approved for June benefits.

**Households
Not Eligible for
SNAP
Emergency
Allotment**

Cases that are pending to close for the closing reasons listed below are not eligible to receive the SNAP Emergency Allotment:

- Death
 - No longer MA resident
 - Requested closure
 - Incarcerated
 - Institutionalized, including incarceration
 - Fleeing felon
 - Outstanding Default Warrant
 - Parole or Probation Violations
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**Households
Not Eligible for
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Emergency
Allotment**

- IPV's:
 - TAFDC Disqualification for Intentional Program Violation
 - EBT Disqualification for Intentional Program Violation
 - SNAP Disqualification for Intentional Program Violation
 - Disqualified from SNAP due to a Cash IPV
 - Bureau of Special Investigation determined fraud
 - Disqualification for Fraud Court Conviction < \$1000
 - Disqualification for Fraud Court Conviction > \$1000
 - Drug Felon
 - EAEDC Disqualification for Intentional Program Violation
 - Fail to schedule a review at end of disqualification period
 - Fraudulently Receiving Duplicate Benefits
 - Multiple cash and/or SNAP benefit applications
 - SNAP Disqualification for Trading SNAP for Drugs
 - SNAP Disqualification for Trading SNAP for Guns
 - SNAP Disqualification for Trading more than \$500 in SNAP

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email the DTA Mailbox.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
