



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


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Commissioner

**Online Guide Transmittal 2020-30C  
July 28, 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**

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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 for the month of July. This Online Guide Transmittal provides updates regarding eligibility for and the processing of SNAP Emergency Allotments.

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**July 2020 Benefits**

For the month of July, if clients did not receive the maximum SNAP benefit for their household size or were not made whole through a supplement issued by a case manager, the household will receive the difference in benefits in the month of August. This payment is planned to be made available to eligible clients on August 3. BEACON will automatically issue this payment as a **FSP Administrative Benefit**.

Case managers 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 July as they have already received the maximum monthly benefit for their household size.

**Example:** Household of 1 received \$102 per month in SNAP benefits. The client reports loss of income in July 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 July, by the case manager.

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(continued)  
July 2020  
Benefits

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 case manager did not issue the related benefit, the system would automatically issue the SNAP Emergency Allotment with the August 3, 2020 sweep. As with prior Emergency Allotment issuances, BEACON will create a batch narrative, “COVID-19 FNS Waiver – Emergency SNAP Supplement issued” to automatically populate the cases that will be paid this SNAP Emergency Allotment.

After August 3, clients will receive SNAP Emergency Allotments for the month of July as cases continue to be approved for July benefits.

**Note:** Based on guidance from FNS, households active at zero are not eligible for the Emergency SNAP allotment. These households will not receive a supplement for July.

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Households  
Not Eligible for  
SNAP  
Emergency  
Allotment

Cases that are pending to close due to 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
  - IPVs:
    - 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
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**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.

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