

Frequently Asked Questions for the Emergency Allotment of SNAP Benefits

Answers to many commonly asked questions about the Supplemental Emergency Allotment (EA) of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits.

What are supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

The Families First Act (FFA) is a federal law that was passed to respond to the effects of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19. The law authorized the issuance of emergency supplemental benefits to households receiving SNAP. Based on the law, the federal government directed the states to issue supplemental SNAP benefits, **up to the maximum allowable SNAP benefit for a household's size**, for two months. New York is issuing the supplemental benefits for the months of March and April, 2020. Only households whose SNAP benefit for the months of March and/or April was **less than** the maximum benefit amount for their household's size will get a supplemental EA SNAP benefit.

Who qualifies for the supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

If your household received a SNAP benefit for either of the months of March or April (or for both months) that was **less than** the maximum benefit amount for your household's size, then you qualify for and will automatically get a supplemental EA SNAP benefit. The maximum monthly SNAP benefit amounts by household size are listed below:

Maximum Monthly SNAP Benefits

SNAP Household Size	Maximum Monthly Benefit Amount
1	\$194
2	\$355
3	\$509
4	\$646
5	\$768
6	\$921
7	\$1,018
8	\$1,164
Each additional person	\$146

What if my household already got the maximum benefit for my household's size for both March and April?

If you got the maximum SNAP benefit for your household's size for March and for April, then you will **not** get a supplemental EA SNAP benefit.

How much will I receive in supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

SNAP households are eligible to receive supplemental EA SNAP benefits for March and April 2020 in the amount that will bring them up to the maximum SNAP monthly benefit amount for a household of their size.

For example, a household of 4 people may currently receive a maximum monthly allotment of \$646. If that household received \$400 in monthly SNAP benefits for both March and April, they will receive supplemental EA SNAP benefits of \$492 (\$246 for March and \$246 for April.)

Do I need to apply for supplemental EA SNAP benefits?

No, you do **not** need to apply for supplemental EA SNAP benefits. If you already get SNAP and received a SNAP benefit for March or April that is **less than** the maximum benefit amount for your household's size, the EA benefits automatically will be made available on your EBT card.

If you are **not** currently enrolled in SNAP, the quickest way to apply for SNAP benefits is online at myBenefits.ny.gov or <https://access.nyc.gov/> (if you live in New York City).

Please Note: To help stop the spread of COVID-19, many [local department of social services](#) and [SNAP Centers](#) locations are consolidating their hours until further notice. Please call your local district or visit their website to check their operating hours. **All in-person appointments have been cancelled.**

When will I receive my emergency SNAP benefits if I am eligible?

Supplemental EA SNAP benefits for March and April will be issued together as a one-time payment. These supplemental benefits will be available on your EBT card by the end of April. For more information on how to check your available SNAP balance on your EBT card visit: <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/ebt/>

What can I purchase with my emergency SNAP supplemental benefits?

The supplemental EA benefits are SNAP benefits. Like regular SNAP benefits, the supplemental benefits can be used to purchase food at authorized retail food stores. A detailed list of food items that may be purchased with SNAP benefits can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items/>.

Do I have to use my emergency SNAP supplemental benefits right away?

No. Unused SNAP benefits, including supplements, remain available and accessible on your EBT card for up to one year from the date they are issued.