

**From:** [Gold, Andrea - FNS](#)  
**To:** [Henschel, Matthew - FNS](#); [Volpe, Maria - FNS](#); [Pasquaretta, Kevin](#); [Magee, Robin - FNS](#); [West, Jheanell - FNS](#); [Brathwaite, Bonnie - FNS](#); [Messner, Kurt - FNS](#)  
**Cc:** [Hortin, Steve - FNS](#); [Kreh, Tim - FNS](#); [Opara, Felix - FNS](#); [Nichols, Nadine - FNS](#); [Shahin, Jessica - FNS](#); [Griffin, Laura - FNS](#); [Pierce, Shelly - FNS](#); [Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS](#); [Balbes, Maribelle - FNS](#); [Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS](#); [Patyk, Karen - FNS](#); [DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS](#); [Maloney, Wayne - RD, Washington, DC](#); [Abelev, Melissa - FNS](#); [Gold, Andrea - FNS](#); [Hardison, Brooke - FNS](#); [Garcia, Kristin - FNS](#); [Lucas, Richard - FNS](#); [Muns, Tamiaka - FNS](#); [Billger, Hans - FNS](#); [Kaup, Glenn - FNS](#); [Mouw, Traci - FNS](#); [Carrasco, Rogelio - FNS](#); [Noble, John \(David\) - FNS](#); [Swezy, Shanta - FNS](#); [Carter, Scott - FNS](#); [Koster, Patrick - FNS](#); [Shelby, Carolyn - FNS](#); [Burr, David - FNS](#); [Greenwood, Lisa - FNS](#); [Pauley, Edward - FNS](#); [Castillo, Georgina - FNS](#); [Hughes, Sarah - FNS](#); [Cline, Daniel - FNS](#)  
**Subject:** COVID-19: NY Emergency Allotments Approval  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 4:13:29 PM  
**Attachments:** NYS COVID-19 EA Revised cover letter 3 31 20.pdf  
NY COVID-19 Revised EA Waiver Request 3 31 20.pdf

---

NERO Team,

Please consider this FNS' approval of New York's attached request to issue Emergency Allotments (EA) to all ongoing SNAP households in the State of New York.

This approval will allow the State to issue EA to ongoing SNAP households for March and April 2020, increasing their current monthly allotment up to the maximum monthly allotment for a household of that size. The approval is for two months and any extension beyond that timeframe would require additional FNS approval. Ongoing SNAP households that already receive the maximum monthly allotment for their household size are not eligible for EA. All EA will be delivered on ongoing SNAP households' EBT cards.

Please ask the State to confirm receipt and REPLY ALL, upon notice of the State's confirmation of receipt. We would also ask the State to alert any contacts they may have in the retailer community of the emergency issuance and its timing, so stores can stock up in preparation.

Thanks, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Andrea

Andrea Gold-O'Connor  
Director  
SNAP, Retailer and Issuance Policy  
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service  
1320 Braddock Place, Room 518  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>

---



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**MICHAEL P. HEIN**  
Commissioner

**BARBARA C. GUINN**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 31, 2020

Mr. Kurt Messner  
Regional Administrator  
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service  
Northeast Regional Office  
10 Causeway Street  
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Mr. Messner:

Enclosed, please find New York State's updated plan for implementing the Emergency Allotment supplements to SNAP benefits authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, in accordance the terms of the USDA-FNS memorandum of March 20, 2020. This plan has been revised to address concerns and questions USDA-FNS raised in response to our original submission.

We look forward to working with USDA-FNS to address and resolve any questions and concerns necessary to secure approval of, and to effectively implement, this plan.

Sincerely,

*Jeffrey Gaskell*

Jeffrey Gaskell  
Deputy Commissioner  
Employment and Income Support Programs

Enclosure

cc: Bonnie Brathwaite, USDA-FNS  
Matt Henschel, USDA-FNS  
Kevin Pasquaretta, USDA-FNS  
Caroline Milliken, USDA-FNS  
Barbara Guinn  
Krista Rock  
John DiBari  
Brandy Murphy  
Lisa Schweigert  
Tom Hedderman  
Wendy DeMarco  
Tracy Gatchell

## **Request to Provide Emergency Allotments (Supplements) to SNAP Households**

- 1. Type of Request:** Initial
- 2. Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- 3. State:** New York
- 4. Proposed Alternative Procedures:**

New York State (State) makes this request in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services' (FNS') March 20, 2020 guidance document. However, the State believes that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act authorizes payments more broadly than as interpreted by FNS and reserves the right to challenge FNS's implementation of the Act. New York State strongly urges USDA to broaden their interpretation of the Act to allow all SNAP recipients to receive a supplement of the critically needed benefits we believe the Act intended to bestow.

For the most recent month for which data is available, approximately 52% of New York State's SNAP caseload already was receiving the maximum monthly SNAP benefit for the household's size. Under this proposed plan, approximately only 48% of SNAP households in New York State will receive a supplement.

The State proposes to provide an emergency allotment to address temporary food needs to households to bring all households up to the maximum benefit due to pandemic related economic conditions for up to 2 months. Contingent upon the availability of funding and ongoing need, USDA may approve additional months of emergency issuance with an extension request from the State.

These households are eligible for temporary emergency allotments because:

- There is a public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and there is a State-wide emergency or disaster declaration (copy attached); and
- Due to Covid-19 [check all that apply]:

- ✓ Residents of the State are confirmed to have contracted Covid-19
- ✓ Some or all areas of the State are containment or quarantine zones
- ✓ Businesses have closed or significantly reduced their hours
- ✓ The State's residents have experienced economic impacts due to job suspensions or losses
- ✓ The State's residents have been directed to practice social distancing

**Issuing Emergency Allotments to Current SNAP Households:**

Supplemental emergency allotments would be issued in the following manner:

In April for the months of March and April, 2020

On a single date [specify]: \_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ Over a series of days as follows:

Emergency SNAP Allotments will be issued as two separate supplements for March and April spread over a period of two weeks after the regular issuance cycles for recurring April benefits has been completed. Cases to receive the payments will be divided into 10 cohorts of roughly equal size, and each case will receive their March and April supplement, as two separate payments, at the same time. In counties of the State outside of New York City, the benefits will be issued from 4/13 through 4/17 and from 4/20 through 4/24. In New York City, the benefits will be issued from 4/14 through 4/18 and from 4/21 through 4/25. New York State has discussed this issuance schedule with the Food Industry Alliance of New York State, the grocers' trade association, and they did not raise any issues or objections to the schedule.

Staggered as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Other [please explain]:

In subsequent months, emergency allotments should be provided in accordance with the State's regular issuance schedule. If a State wants to use a different schedule, explain:

As noted above, because the April SNAP recurring benefit payment file has already been created and sent to our EBT vendor, Emergency SNAP Allotments will be issued over a series of days as follows:

- In New York City, the benefits will be issued from 4/14 through 4/18 and from 4/21 through 4/25.
- In counties of the State outside of New York City, the benefits will be

issued from 4/13 through 4/17 and from 4/20 through 4/24.

- “Clean-up” issuances will be run in subsequent months to ensure that all households receiving SNAP during the months of supplementation (March and April) receive supplementation.

---

---

The State may provide the emergency allotment(s) without contacting the household. While individual notification is not required, States should notify clients consistent with SNAP requirements for mass changes, including notice that emergency allotments will be issued for up to 2 months. Should this schedule change and additional months are approved during the public health emergency, the State will provide a subsequent mass change notice at that time.

New York State will not be providing individual notices but will be engaging in a robust program of public notification about the emergency allotments consistent with the requirements of federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(e)(1).

**Other Requirements:**

All emergency allotments will be delivered on the SNAP case cardholder’s EBT card.

The State’s SNAP agency also agrees to complete the FNS-292 on a timely basis in accordance with requirements as well as all other normally recurring SNAP reporting included the FNS 46 and 388 reports, on a timely basis in accordance with requirements.

In addition, The State agency will submit weekly reports to FNS with the following information for the entire State:

- The value of EA issued.
- The average issuance amount per household.
- The number of households issued EA

**Justification for Request:** Coronavirus COVID-19, as provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

On March 7, 2020 Governor Cuomo declared a State disaster emergency to enable New York to more quickly and effectively contain the spread of COVID-19. As a result of the current public health emergency, several statewide measures have been instituted to reduce the spread of COVID-19 including the closure of schools, the closure of in-office personnel functions for non-essential businesses, and other measures. The delivery of essential services continues, such as health care services and the critical delivery of SNAP benefits, public assistance, and a range of emergency assistance.

**5. Affected Caseload:**

**One month** estimates for existing SNAP households under these procedures:

- Number of households receiving emergency allotment benefits: 707,935
- Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: \$ 102,535,204
- Number of months requested (2 month limit) 2

USDA reserves the right to withdraw or otherwise modify this approval subject to availability of funding

**6. Anticipated Implementation Date:** April 13, 2020

**7. Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:**

*Jeffrey Gaskell*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Gaskell  
Deputy Commissioner

**8. Date of Request:** 3/31/2020