

Request to Provide Emergency Allotments (Supplements) to SNAP Households

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

1. Type of Request: Initial
2. Primary Citation: Families First Coronavirus Response Act
3. State [specify]: Oregon
4. Proposed Alternative Procedures:

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

x Staggered as follows:

Households will receive an emergency supplement of the maximum benefit allotment for the household size. The goal is to issue supplements on the following dates:

- April:
 - 4/10 issuance includes all current SNAP households; and
 - 4/29 issuance to current SNAP households that did not receive a supplement in the first issuance.
- May:
 - 5/8 issuance includes all current SNAP households; and
 - 5/28 issuance to current SNAP households that did not receive a supplement in the first issuance; and
 - 06/29 issuance for any residual SNAP household that should have been included in the May issuance.

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:

Starting in April 2020 emergency allotments will be available to the household no later than 4/30/2020 with the amount representing the difference between what the household received, and the max allotment based on household size. May emergency allotments should be provided no later than 05/28/2020.

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.

Other Requirements: [If applicable, STATE SHOULD ADDRESS ANY OTHER STATE-SPECIFIC NEEDS THEY MAY HAVE.]

Oregon unemployment claims have skyrocketed as businesses close to comply with

CDC guidance and restrictions put in place through executive orders by Oregon's Governor. Due to SNAP requirements around effective dates of changes families who have experienced this loss of income are not able to meet their immediate nutritional needs, The March 16th closure of schools added to this increased financial impact. In addition, the rush on retailers meant that the lower cost items were not as readily available forcing individuals to purchase higher cost items or go without.

Starting in April households will only receive allotments to supplement their SNAP benefits up to the max allotment based on their household size. This allows for households to recover from the sudden economic and financial impact they faced in March and to continue to meet their nutritional needs while complying with the March 23rd executive order for Oregonians to remain in their own homes to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

All emergency allotments will be delivered on the household'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.

5. Affected Caseload:

One month estimates for existing SNAP households under these procedures:

- 1 Number of households receiving emergency allotments benefits: 177,746 (data as of 04/03/2020)
- 2 Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month:
 - Minimum estimates include;
 - \$30,000,000 anticipated for April; and
 - \$30,000,000 anticipated for May
- 3 Number of months requested (2-month limit) April and May 2020 minimum estimated total \$60,000,000

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

6. Anticipated Implementation Date: See above

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



Dan Haun, Self-Sufficiency Program Director
Oregon Department of Human Services

Print Name and Title

8. Date of request:

April 2, 2020

9. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):