



# DSS COVID-19 UPDATE FOOD BENEFIT PROGRAM CHANGES

POLICY BRIEF FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS  
FEBRUARY 13, 2023

## EMERGENCY FOOD BENEFITS END MARCH 2023

Visit [DE.GOV/SNAPCHANGES](https://de.gov/snapchanges) for more information.

The Division of Social Services (DSS) has issued monthly Emergency Food Benefits to eligible households since March 2020 as part of the extra assistance provided during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Emergency Food Benefits allowed all SNAP households to receive at least \$95 in extra benefits at the end of each month.

On December 29, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 was signed into law. The law ends Emergency Food Benefits after the February 2023 benefit issuance. The last month that SNAP households will receive Emergency Food Benefits is February 2023.

<div data-bbox="155 1094 328 1268" data-label="Image"></div>	<div data-bbox="354 1125 773 1234" data-label="Text"><p>SNAP households will receive their final Emergency Food Benefits on their EBT cards.</p></div>	<div data-bbox="829 1094 1002 1268" data-label="Image"></div>	<div data-bbox="1027 1108 1398 1253" data-label="Text"><p>Extra Emergency Food Benefits end and monthly Food Benefit amounts will return to normal.</p></div>
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**SNAP households will receive their final issuance of Emergency Food Benefits on February 28, 2023.** All SNAP households will receive at least \$95 in monthly Emergency Food Benefits. Households that have a calculated emergency benefit over \$95 will receive the calculated benefit amount.

Emergency Benefit Calculation

*Maximum Benefit for Household Size - Current Monthly Benefit = Monthly Emergency Benefit*

Starting on March 1, 2023, SNAP households will only receive their regular monthly benefit on the normal issuance date. Households will no longer get extra Emergency Food Benefits on their EBT cards at the end of each month.

Regular Food Benefit amounts are determined based on household size, income, and expenses. Below are the current Food Benefit income limits and the maximum and minimum allotment amounts. Most households must qualify under the 200% FPL limits.

<b>FOOD BENEFIT INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS</b>					
<b>October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023</b>					
<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Maximum Gross Monthly Income 200% FPL</i>	<i>Elderly / Disabled Separate Household 165% FPL</i>	<i>Maximum Gross Monthly Income 130% FPL</i>	<i>Maximum Net Monthly Income 100% FPL</i>	<i>Maximum Allotment</i>
	<i>Categorically Eligible</i>		<i>Simplified Reporting</i>		
1	\$2,266	\$1,869	\$1,473	\$1,133	\$281
2	\$3,052	\$2,518	\$1,984	\$1,526	\$516
3	\$3,840	\$3,167	\$2,495	\$1,920	\$740
4	\$4,626	\$3,816	\$3,007	\$2,313	\$939
5	\$5,412	\$4,465	\$3,518	\$2,706	\$1,116
6	\$6,200	\$5,114	\$4,029	\$3,100	\$1,339
7	\$6,986	\$5,763	\$4,541	\$3,493	\$1,480
8	\$7,772	\$6,412	\$5,052	\$3,886	\$1,691
Each additional member	\$788	\$649	\$512	\$394	\$211
<b>FOOD BENEFIT MINIMUM ALLOTMENT</b>					
<i>Household Size</i>			<i>Minimum Allotment</i>		
1-2			\$23		

Households receive their regular Food Benefit amounts following the schedule below.

<b>FOOD BENEFIT ISSUANCE DATES</b>	
<i>Client's Last Name Begins With</i>	<i>Monthly Issuance Day</i>
A	2 <sup>nd</sup> of the month
B	3 <sup>rd</sup> of the month
C	4 <sup>th</sup> of the month
D	5 <sup>th</sup> of the month
E	6 <sup>th</sup> of the month
F	7 <sup>th</sup> of the month
G	8 <sup>th</sup> of the month
H	9 <sup>th</sup> of the month
I	10 <sup>th</sup> of the month
J	11 <sup>th</sup> of the month
K	12 <sup>th</sup> of the month
L	13 <sup>th</sup> of the month
M	14 <sup>th</sup> of the month
N	15 <sup>th</sup> of the month
O	16 <sup>th</sup> of the month
P	17 <sup>th</sup> of the month
Q, R	18 <sup>th</sup> of the month
S	19 <sup>th</sup> of the month
T	20 <sup>th</sup> of the month
U, V	21 <sup>st</sup> of the month
W	22 <sup>nd</sup> of the month
X, Y, Z	23 <sup>rd</sup> of the month

## Current Household Information

Please remind households to provide current information to DSS/DMMA for their address, employment, income, expenses, and the number of people in their household.

**Households that have unreported expenses (shelter, utilities, dependent care, child support, and excess medical expenses) or a decrease in income may qualify for more Food Benefits. Reminder: new or changed expenses and income must be verified.**

Households can report a change by:

- Logging in to their Delaware ASSIST accounts at [assist.dhss.delaware.gov](https://assist.dhss.delaware.gov); or
- Calling the Change Report Center at **1-866-843-7212**; or
- Calling or visiting their local Division of Social Services or Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance office.

## Fair Hearings

DSS cannot change the end of Emergency Food Benefits. Emergency Food Benefits will end nationwide after the February 2023 issuance.

Households may not appeal the end of Emergency Food Benefits and will not be granted a Fair Hearing for this issue.

Households may request a Fair Hearing if they believe their normal Food Benefit amount is incorrect and cannot resolve their concern with their local office.

## Tips for SNAP Households

- Households do not need to take any action for the end of Emergency Food Benefits. Food Benefit amounts will return to normal in March 2023. Households will continue to receive their regular monthly Food Benefits until the end of their certification period as long as they remain eligible.
- Households can check their Food Benefit balance on their EBT card by calling **1-800-526-9099** or going to [www.ConnectEBT.com](https://www.ConnectEBT.com).
- Households can find their regular monthly Food Benefit amount on their Food Benefit approval notice, by viewing their EBT account history, or by contacting DSS/DMMA.
- Households can save their extra Food Benefits to use later. Food Benefits do not expire as long as the household uses their EBT card at least once every 9 months to keep their EBT account active.

- Households can get free, private, one-on-one financial coaching from Stand By Me to help them plan their budgets to prepare for the end of extra benefits - [standbymede.org](https://standbymede.org) or 1-800-560-3372.
- Households can get tips on shopping and preparing meals on a budget at:
  - [www.myplate.gov/eat-healthy/healthy-eating-budget](https://www.myplate.gov/eat-healthy/healthy-eating-budget)
  - [snaped.fns.usda.gov/nutrition-education/nutrition-education-materials/eat-right-when-moneys-tight](https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/nutrition-education/nutrition-education-materials/eat-right-when-moneys-tight)
- Households can find local food assistance resources by contacting:

**Delaware 2-1-1 Helpline**  
Call 2-1-1 or 1-800-560-3372  
Text your zip code to 898-211  
[delaware211.org](https://delaware211.org)

**Food Bank of Delaware**  
New Castle County 302-292-1305  
Kent & Sussex Counties 302-424-3301  
[www.fbd.org/get-help/](https://www.fbd.org/get-help/)

**Important Note about Emergency Cash Benefits**

Emergency Cash Benefits will continue until the Federal COVID-19 public health emergency expires.

FEB  
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Eligible TANF & GA households will receive Emergency Cash Benefits.

MAR-MAY

Emergency Cash Benefits will continue until the COVID-19 public health emergency expires.

The next issuance of Emergency Cash Benefits will occur on February 28, 2023. Households with open Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and General Assistance (GA) cases that are not already receiving the maximum benefit amount will receive an Emergency Cash Benefit using the calculation below. The issuance dates for Emergency Cash Benefits will continue to be shared on the DSS website ([www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dss/](https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dss/)) and DHSS social media.

Emergency Benefit Calculation

*Maximum Benefit for Household Size - Current Monthly Benefit = Monthly Emergency Benefit*

CASH ASSISTANCE MAXIMUM ALLOTMENTS		
October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023		
<i>Number of People in the Budget Group</i>	<i>Maximum Allotment TANF</i>	<i>Maximum Allotment General Assistance</i>
1	\$201	\$79
2	\$270	\$107
3	\$338	\$144
4	\$407	\$169
5	\$475	\$209
6	\$544	\$239

Resources

FREE Social Service, Health, Financial, and Employment Resources in Delaware	
CONTACT:	IF YOU NEED HELP WITH:
<b>Delaware Division of Social Services</b> <i>Apply Online: <a href="http://assist.dhss.delaware.gov">assist.dhss.delaware.gov</a></i> 1-866-843-7212 <a href="http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dss/">www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dss/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Benefits, Child Care Assistance, and Cash Assistance</li> <li>• Employment and Training Services for individuals receiving Food Benefits and Cash Assistance</li> </ul>
<b>Delaware Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance</b> <i>Apply Online: <a href="http://assist.dhss.delaware.gov">assist.dhss.delaware.gov</a></i> 1-866-843-7212 <a href="http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dmma/">www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dmma/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicaid, Healthy Children Program (CHIP), Prescription Assistance, and Long-Term Care Services</li> </ul>
<b>Delaware Division of State Service Centers</b> 1-866-843-7212 <a href="http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dssc/">www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dssc/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Assistance for Rent, Utilities, Shelter, and Food</li> <li>• Kinship Care Assistance</li> <li>• Energy Assistance</li> </ul>
<b>Delaware Department of Labor</b> <a href="http://labor.delaware.gov">labor.delaware.gov</a> <a href="http://www.joblink.delaware.gov">www.joblink.delaware.gov</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job Search and Training</li> <li>• Unemployment Benefits</li> </ul>
<b>Delaware State Housing Authority</b> 1-888-363-8808 <a href="http://www.destatehousing.com">www.destatehousing.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Housing, Emergency Shelter, and Rental Assistance</li> </ul>
<b>Delaware Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program</b> 302-605-4066 New Castle County 302-605-1833 Kent County 302-605-4055 Sussex County <a href="http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/chca/dphwichominf01.html">www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/chca/dphwichominf01.html</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Assistance, Healthy Eating, Nutrition, and Health Care &amp; Social Service Referrals for Pregnant Women, New Mothers, and Young Children</li> </ul>
<b>Delaware Aging and Disability Resource Center</b> 1-800-223-9074 <a href="http://www.delawareadrc.com">www.delawareadrc.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources for Older Persons and Adults with Physical Disabilities</li> <li>• Information about Food Delivery, Housing, Employment, Health Services, and Other Available Programs</li> </ul>
<b>Stand By Me</b> 1-800-560-3372 <a href="http://www.standbymede.org">www.standbymede.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Coaching</li> <li>• Improving your Credit Score and Reducing Debt</li> <li>• Homeownership Assistance</li> </ul>
<b>Delaware Hope Line</b> 1-833-9-HOPEDE or 1-833-946-7333 <a href="http://www.HelpsHereDE.com">www.HelpsHereDE.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health, Stress, Anxiety, and Depression</li> <li>• Substance Use Disorder and Addiction</li> <li>• Domestic Violence and Crisis Assistance</li> </ul>
<b>My Child DE</b> 1-800-734-2388 <a href="http://www.mychildde.org">www.mychildde.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Care Resources and Search Tools</li> </ul>
<b>Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI)</b> 1-800-292-7980 New Castle County 1-800-537-8383 Kent County 1-800-462-7070 Sussex County <a href="http://www.declasi.org">www.declasi.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Services</li> </ul>
<b>Food Bank of Delaware</b> 302-292-1305 New Castle County 302-424-3301 Kent & Sussex Counties <a href="http://www.fbd.org/get-help/">www.fbd.org/get-help/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Food Pantries</li> <li>• Senior Nutrition Program</li> </ul>
<b>Delaware 2-1-1 Helpline</b> Call 2-1-1 or 1-800-560-3372 Text your zip code to 898-211 <a href="http://www.delaware211.org">www.delaware211.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Assistance, Medical Care, Emergency Shelter, Housing, Utilities, Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, Clothing, Transportation, and Legal Help</li> </ul>