SNAP Emergency Allotments Are Ending in February

What is changing?

Recent federal legislation passed in December 2022 brings an end to the SNAP Emergency Allotments. These additional food assistance benefits have been issued since April 2020 and have been loaded onto SNAP participants' Bridge



Cards as a second payment each month. February will be the last month that people in Michigan and other states receive the extra food assistance benefits. Beginning in March, participants will receive only one monthly payment loaded to their Bridge Card, which is their regular SNAP benefit amount.

How can I prepare for these changes?

Because this is a change to federal policy, participants are unable to request a hearing from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) regarding this change. However, there are ways in which you can be sure to maximize your SNAP benefits.

Make sure your information is up-to-date with MDHHS to receive all the benefits you are eligible for. Be sure to report important changes to MDHHS like:

- · Your address to make sure you receive important updates about your benefits.
- Your income and the income of everyone in your SNAP household.
 - Did you lose work hours or have your pay cut? If you are earning less, you may qualify for more SNAP benefits.
- Your expenses and other allowable deductions.
 - If you are a senior or have a disability, do you pay more than \$35 in medical expenses per month?
 - Are you paying more for child care? Or did your payments on rent, mortgage, utilities, or property taxes increase?

In some cases, reporting this may help you qualify for more benefits. Your information can be updated online in your MI Bridges account, or by contacting your local MDHHS office.

Connecting to Resources

- Learn more about these changes at www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/end-phe
- <u>Call 2-1-1</u> or visit <u>www.michigan.gov/mibridges</u> to find and connect with community resources in your local area.
- Find your local food bank at www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank.
- Call the Food and Other Resources (F.O.R.) Helpline at 1-888-544-8773 for assistance in applying for SNAP benefits, help finding a local food pantry or distribution, or referrals to other resources.
- Follow the <u>SNAP Outreach at Food Bank Council of Michigan Facebook page</u> for information on programs that can save you money based on your participation in SNAP.



