

## Frequently Asked Questions



Get answers to frequently asked questions regarding the end of SNAP Emergency Allotments  
*SNAP is also known as the Food Assistance Program in Michigan.*

### What are SNAP Emergency Allotments?

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government temporarily increased SNAP benefits. Emergency Allotment (EA) SNAP benefits were issued to households in addition to their normal monthly SNAP benefit amount. As a result, households received more food assistance benefits each month than they would have normally been eligible for based on their income and expenses.

### Why are the Emergency Allotments Ending?

A recent law passed by the federal government in December 2022 brings an end to the SNAP Emergency Allotments.

### When will this change happen?

The last Emergency Allotment payment will be issued in February. The issuance dates will be between Feb. 18 and Feb. 27. You will receive your regular benefit amount beginning in March.

### Who made this decision?

This is a federal policy change. After this change there will be no states providing SNAP Emergency Allotments. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services do not have control over this change.

### Are my benefits going to decrease?

The additional food assistance benefits being sent out were a temporary increase in benefits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those additional benefits are ending. Your regular benefit amount is not affected by this change.

### How much will my benefits decrease?

Your total food assistance benefits will be less as you will no longer receive the extra emergency allotment benefits. Beginning in March participants will only receive one monthly payment loaded to their EBT card, which is their regular SNAP benefit. Your regular benefit amount is not affected by this change.

### Where can I find my regular benefit amount?

You can find your regular benefit amount in the following ways:

- By logging into your MI Bridges account at [MI Bridges](#).
- By calling 1-844-464-3447 and following the prompts to check your benefits.
- By viewing on the [FIS ebtEDGE portal](#).

### Do I need to spend all of my benefits each month?

No. The food assistance benefits on your EBT Card do not expire at the end of the month they are issued. The unused benefits are available for 274 days after issuance.

### Can I request a hearing about this change?

No. This change in your food assistance benefit amount is because the extra COVID-19 food assistance benefits are ending February 2023, not because of changes to your individual case. As this is a change in federal policy, this change is not subject to a hearing.

### Can I do anything to increase my benefit?

***Make sure your information is up to date to receive your correct, full benefit.***

In order to ensure you are receiving 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.
- 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 rent, mortgage, or property taxes increase?

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

### What other help is available?

- A list of available resources [can be found here](#).
- Call [2-1-1](#) to find food and other resources in your area or [find your local food bank](#).
- Follow the [SNAP Outreach at Food Bank Council of Michigan Facebook page](#) for updates and information on programs that can save you money based on your participation in SNAP.
- For help finding a food pantry, assistance in applying for SNAP benefits, or referrals to other resources, call 1-888-544-8773.
  - *The F.O.R. Helpline is operated by the Food Bank Council of Michigan, not MDHHS, and is therefore unable to answer case specific questions.*

### How can I spread the word about these changes?

- Join a webinar hosted by the Food Bank Council of Michigan on February 13th at 2:00 pm to learn more about these changes and how SNAP participants can begin to prepare now.
  - Registration can be found at <https://bit.ly/SNAPEAWebinar>
- Download [this toolkit](#) for fliers, social media posts, and other resources in English, Spanish, and Arabic to help spread the news in your community.