



The Research Packet For  
**THE SNAP TASK FORCE**  
Meeting of June 20, 2019



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## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE

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## I. United States Department of Agriculture



### Secretary Perdue Statement on President Trump's Signing of Disaster Aid Bill

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/06/06/secretary-perdue-statement-president-trumps-signing-disaster-aid>

**Washington, D.C., June 6, 2019** – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today commended President Trump's signing of the disaster relief bill that will provide \$19 billion in assistance to states and territories hit by flooding, hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters.

"Congress provided much needed resources to assist farmers, ranchers and producers dealing with extensive damage to their operations caused by natural disasters," said Secretary Perdue. "President Trump is committed to helping America's farmers get back on their feet following recent natural disasters. I thank him for his leadership and I thank the members of Congress from Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas who fought so hard to make sure this bill passed. We look forward to implementing this disaster aid package in a fair way and working with state leadership to identify where the true losses and needs are to best serve our fellow Americans in need of a helping hand."

### USDA Highlights Importance of keeping Kids Fed During Summer Months

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2019/fns-000719>

**WASHINGTON, June 18, 2019** – Children's need for good nutrition does not end when school lets out for the summer. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reminding the public about its commitment to help families keep children in low-income areas fed throughout the summer, so they can return to school ready to learn and succeed in the fall.

"Children need nutritious food to learn, grow, and achieve long-term success," said Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Brandon Lipps. "USDA's [Summer Meal Programs](#) ensure children have access to nutritious meals during the summer months." Lipps made these comments while visiting a summer meals site at Laurel Woods Apartments in Ashland, Virginia that works in partnership with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and Rural Development to empower children throughout rural Virginia by fueling their minds and bodies with nutritious meals.

## II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



Treatment of 2020 Census Income for Temporary Assistance (TA)  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Home Energy Assistance  
Program(HEAP)

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<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2019/19DC031.pdf>

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to inform districts of program implications for Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and Medicaid (MA) relating to income received from temporary employment through the United States Census Bureau (Census Bureau).

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

To encourage the recruitment of enumerators in communities with high participation in SNAP, and to recruit individuals who receive SNAP, but who have limited or no employment history, so that they may gain valuable work experience without reducing their SNAP benefits, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is making waivers available to interested states allowing them to exclude temporary 2020 Census Bureau income as income for-SNAP. New York State has requested and received such a waiver. Under this option, from now through September 30, 2020, temporary Census Bureau income shall be excluded and not counted as income when determining a household's SNAP eligibility and benefit amount.

Necessary Action by HEAP,TA, and SNAP workers to directly Issue HEAP Heat-Included  
Payments to utility Vendors

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<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2019/19DC033.pdf>

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to notify social services districts (districts) that heat-included Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits of \$21, \$30, and \$35 which were previously directed to a HEAP recipient's Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card should now be directed, whenever possible, to the recipient's utility account if they pay a vendor directly for domestic electricity.

**Monthly Caseload Statistics- March 2019**

<https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/2019/2019-03-stats.pdf>

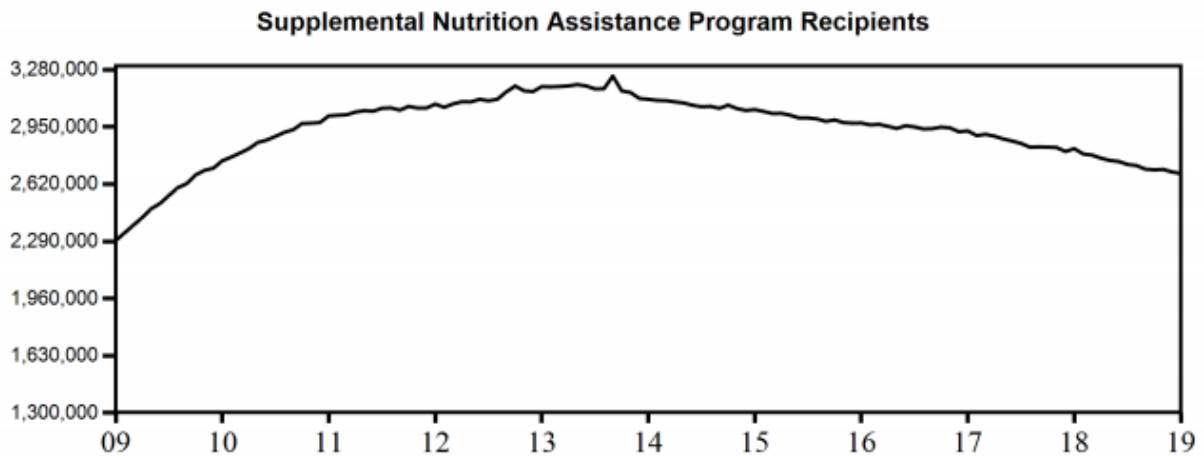
**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

	This Month	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
	<b>2,681,717</b>	<b>-8,861 (-0.3%)</b>	<b>-142,960 (-5.1%)</b>
	<b>\$365,994,095</b>	<b>-\$1.6 mil (-0.4%)</b>	<b>-\$17.4 mil (-4.5%)</b>

**TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS  
March 2019**

Region	Recipients				
	Temporary Assistance by Program			Supplemental Security Income	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
	Total	Family Assistance-FP	Safety Net Assistance		
New York State	491,533	184,846	306,687	675,070	2,681,717
New York City	333,593	108,966	224,627	404,850	1,557,666
Rest of State	157,940	75,880	82,060	270,220	1,124,051

**NEW YORK STATE  
April 2009 - March 2019  
TEN YEAR TREND**



### III. New York City Human Resources Administration

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#### NYC – St. Nicholas SNAP Center (S14) Closing

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This Center Director (CD) Memorandum is being issued to announce that the St. Nicholas SNAP Center (S14) currently located at 132 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10027. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will be closed permanently as of June 28, 2019.

All current participants of S14 will be assigned to the East End SNAP Center (S02) located at 2322 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10035, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.

The new location will offer applicants/participants quick and easy self-services access to many HRA services, as follow:

- **Self Service Check in Station (Kiosk)**- at the center will be used by applicants/participants, so they can self-route to the correct services area by issuing themselves a ticket.
- **Self-Services Scanner** will allow applicants/participants the option to submit documents without waiting for a center staff member
- **Personal Computer Banks (PC Banks)** will allow applicants/participants to submit an SNAP application/recertification form and a Cash Assistance (CA) recertification using form using the Access HRA website

For telephonic interpretation, services and the American Sign Language (ASL) video equipment S14 staff will utilized S02 access codes.

The hour of operation at S02 will remain the same Monday – Friday 8:30 am- 5:00 pm

#### Ending SNAP extended Hours

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This Center Director (CD) Memorandum is being issues to announce that beginning July 01, 2019 the following SNAP Center will no longer have extended hours

Waverly SNAP Center (S19) Currently located at 8-12 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York NY 10011

- **East New York(S28)** currently located at 404 Pine Street , 1<sup>st</sup> floor ,Brooklyn NY 11208
- **Concourse SNAP Center (S45)** currently located at 1375 Jerome Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bronx NY 10452
- **Jamaica SNAP Center (S54)** currently located at 165-08 88<sup>th</sup> Ave,3<sup>rd</sup> floor ,Jamaica NY 11432
- **Richmond SNAP Center (S99)** currently located at 201 Bay Street, 2floor, Staten Island NY 10301

The hours of operations at the above SNAP centers will be Monday –Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

In addition, **S19 will no longer open on Saturdays**. The last Saturday that S19 will be open is June 29, 2019

## Reminder to the Centralized Indexing Unit Staff

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The purpose of this Center Director (CD) Memorandum is to remind the Centralized Indexing unit (CIU) staff that if a document is submitted by an applicant that is illegible in terms of content, but sufficient enough to identify the documents type (ex. Paystub, Lease etc.) it should be indexed according to the type of document it is.

This will help ensure that the interviewers/processors at the Job Centers and SNAP centers see the documents and determine if they need to outreach to the applicant/[participants or a collateral contact to a third party, de-referral is needed. The CIU Staff should follow the instructions on the Desk Guide for Document Indexing

## IV. Reports, News and Notable Items

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Stakeholder Meeting hosted by HRA and MOIA to discuss recent benefits enrollment trends observed among non-citizens New Yorkers

### Eligible non-citizen New Yorkers are forgoing SNAP benefits at a much faster rate than U.S. citizen New Yorkers.

- SNAP helps 1.6 million New Yorkers—or nearly 20 percent of the City's population—put food on the table and feed their families. This includes approximately 200,000 eligible non-citizens.
- Across all five boroughs and compared to eligible U.S. citizens, many more eligible non-citizen New Yorkers are either withdrawing from or not enrolling in SNAP. The rate of decline for eligible non-citizens is double that of eligible citizens.
  - The decline among eligible non-citizens began in 2016 but has been accelerating since rumors of the public charge rule began in 2017 under the current Presidential Administration.

Year-over-year change in SNAP caseload by citizenship

	Non-citizen	Citizen
1/16 - 1/17	+1.1%	+1.2%
1/17 - 1/18	-6.2%	-3.2%
1/18 - 1/19	-10.9%	-2.8%

## Public Charge Palm

## Questions about how accessing public benefits may impact your immigration status?



For information, call the New Americans Hotline, operated by **Catholic Charities** at **1-800-566-7636, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday to Friday**. The hotline is free and anonymous. Help is available in over 200 languages.



To meet with an immigration legal services provider, call **ActionNYC** at **1-800-354-0365, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday**.



Call 311 to find emergency food assistance near you.

PALM-31(E)  
June 2019

### FRAC – It's Time to Build on SNAP's Effectiveness for Disaster Recovery

<http://frac.org/blog/its-time-to-build-on-snaps-effectiveness-for-disaster-recovery>

June, the beginning of the Atlantic Ocean's hurricane season, is a good time to highlight disaster preparedness and the role of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in helping to reduce hunger and food insecurity before, during, and after a disaster

### FRAC – The price Is (NOT) Right

<http://frac.org/blog/the-price-is-not-right>

As it does every June, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) this month will calculate the cost of a bare-bones market basket (the Thrifty Food Plan), which will serve as the basis for setting the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit allotment for the fiscal year starting in October 2019. Because of flawed assumptions behind the plan, the USDA's pricing will leave SNAP households without enough benefits to afford a month's worth of nutritious food.

### Daily News – The Internet is making bricks-and mortar welfare office obsolete, De Blasio says



<https://dailynews.news/the-internet-is-making-bricks-and-mortar-welfare-offices-obsolete-de-blasio-says/>

Mayor de Blasio brushed off concerns that closing another food stamp distribution center would hurt the neediest New Yorkers – and insisted the city also has to save money.

“The overwhelming majority of the clients now either get their benefits online or by phone, and the usage in those centers has gone down quite a bit,” de Blasio said on Wednesday when asked about the city’s latest closure plans. “We have to be smart about how we spend our money.”

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The city plans to close the St. Nicholas SNAP Center on 125th St. and St. Nicholas Ave. in Harlem on June 28. Two other SNAP centers in Brooklyn were closed in September, though one later re-opened at a new location.

An estimated 1.6 million New Yorkers get food stamps, according to the most recent city data. As of January, 87% choose to access benefits online and 97% are conducting SNAP interviews over the phone.

Recipients still worry the closure will make getting benefits more difficult. And advocates say the most vulnerable recipients – including seniors, people with children, disabled New Yorkers and the homeless – will feel the closures the most.

**THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY  
2019**