



The Research Packet For

THE SNAP TASK FORCE

Meeting of November 21, 2019



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SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE

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I. United States Department of Agriculture



USDA encourages States to Engage SNAP Participants in Employment Opportunities

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/fns-001619>

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20, 2019 -- USDA today reminded states that as partners in administering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) they have an opportunity to address challenges and provide support to program participants as they move towards – and into – employment

In a [letter to state agencies](#) today, USDA outlined how the SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) Program is a valuable resource that helps participants gain the skills they need to become more competitive job candidates, successful employees, and accomplished professionals. SNAP E&T should be an integrated part of the work support system that extends to other federal agencies, state and county governments, and local service providers who engage participants with demand-focused training and development programs.

II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost-of Living Adjustment (COLA) for January 2020

<http://otda.ny.gov/policy/directives/2019/INF/19-INF-06.pdf>

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to inform local social services districts (districts) that the January 1, 2020 federal cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Title II Retirement, Survivors and Disability (RSDI) Social Security benefits and Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits has been set at 1.6%. The updated SSI/SSP Benefit Levels Chart with an effective date of January 1, 2020.

SSI and SSP Maximum Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2020 (reflects the 1.6% federal COLA for January 2020)

Fed L/A Code	State Supp Code	New York State Living Arrangement	Individual			Couple		
			Federal	State	Total ¹	Federal	State	Total ¹
A	A	Living Alone	\$783	\$87	\$870	\$1,175	\$104	\$1,279
A, C (B)	B (F)	Living With Others (Living in the Household of Another) ²	\$783 (\$522)	\$23	\$806 (\$545)	\$1,175 (\$783.34)	\$46	\$1,221 (\$829.34)
A	C	Congregate Care Level 1 - Family Care OCFS certified Family Type Homes for Adults; and OMH or OPWDD certified Family Care Homes <i>NYC, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties</i> <i>Rest of State</i>	\$783	\$266.48	\$1,049.48	\$1,175	\$923.96	\$2,098.96
A	D	Congregate Care Level 2 - Residential Care OMH or OPWDD certified Community Residences, Individualized Residential Alternatives and OASAS certified Chemical Dependence Residential Services <i>NYC, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties</i> <i>Rest of State</i>	\$783	\$435	\$1,218	\$1,175	\$1,261	\$2,436
A	E	Congregate Care Level 3 – Enhanced Residential Care DOH certified Adult Homes and Enriched Housing programs; and OPWDD certified Schools for the Developmentally Disabled	\$783	\$694	\$1,477	\$1,175	\$1,779	\$2,954
D	Z	Title XIX (Medicaid certified) Institutions³	\$30	\$0 ⁴	\$30	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	Z	see below ⁵	\$783	\$0	\$783	\$1,175	\$0	\$1,175

Minimum Personal Needs Allowances	Limits on Countable Resources	Statutory References: Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2019
Congregate Care Level 1 - \$ 150	Individuals \$2,000	
Congregate Care Level 2 - \$ 174	Couples \$3,000	
Congregate Care Level 3 - \$ 207		

Revised October 15, 2019

Local Commissioner Memorandum – Inadmissibility on Public Charge

<http://otda.ny.gov/policy/directives/2019/LCM/19-LCM-09-T.pdf>

To provide guidance and direction on how to handle inquiries made in the social services districts (districts) regarding the Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published “Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds” final rule, which has not taken effect due to a recent court order.

Background:

On August 14, 2019, DHS published the “Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds” final rule. The final rule was anticipated to take effect on October 15, 2019; however, on October 11, 2019, the United States (U.S.) District Court for the Southern District of New York issued an order prohibiting the federal government from implementing or enforcing the rule. The order also postponed the effective date of the final rule. Districts will be notified through a subsequent policy issuance if the final rule takes effect.

Local Commissioner Memorandum – 2019-2020 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

<http://otda.ny.gov/policy/directives/2019/LCM/19-LCM-10.pdf>

This Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM) is to provide local social services districts (districts) with information for the administration of all components and benefits of the 2019-2020 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

Participants may apply for Home ENERGY Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits between November 12, 2019 and March 15, 2020

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/energy-assistance.page>

Monthly Caseload Statistics –August 2019

<http://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/2019/2019-08-stats.pdf>



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program			
	This Month	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
	2,598,826	-14,265 (-0.5%)	-152,256 (-5.5%)
	\$358,350,959	-\$663,549 (-0.2%)	-\$19.8 mil (-5.2%)

Table 1
TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE CASES
August 2019

Region	Cases				
	Temporary Assistance by Program			Supplemental Security Income	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
	Total	Family Assistance-FP	Safety Net Assistance		
New York State	256,120	77,451	178,669	671,228	1,486,402
New York City	176,110	44,602	131,508	401,269	882,201
Rest of State	80,010	32,849	47,161	269,959	604,201

III. New York City Human Resources Administration



Memorandum – Gas Outages

The purpose of this Center Director (CD) Memorandum is to inform staff of gas outages that are currently affecting many residents of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) buildings. The NYCHA website, <https://my.nycha.info/Outages/Outages.aspx>, provides a list of all buildings currently impacted by a gas outage. If a NYCHA resident reports that they are experiencing a gas outage in their apartment, staff may use the NYCHA website as verification.

Households residing in a NYCHA building without gas in their apartment may be eligible for a restaurant allowance or replacement of food, even if they are not already in receipt of Cash Assistance (CA) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. For information and instructions pertaining to the benefits that can be issued to households as a result of a gas outage.

Policy Bulletin #19-52-OPE –Forms/Poster

The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform Job Center and Non-Cash Assistance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NCA SNAP) Center staff that the "Mandated Poster and Signage List for Job Centers" (M-98c) and "Mandated Poster and Signage List for Non-Cash Assistance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NCA SNAP) Centers" (M-98d) have been revised

The following is a list of posters/signage required to be displayed in Job Centers. Most posters/signage are available in English and Spanish and must be prominently displayed in the main area(s) of the Centers or in all applicant/participant waiting areas, as noted below. **Note:** Posters/signs with separate Spanish translation are identified with an (S) or SP after the identification number. **Displaying black and white versions of posters/signage is acceptable only if the poster is designed that way. If the poster is a color poster, it must be displayed that way.** Only employee mandated signs are required at Centralized Rent Processing Unit (CRPU) and RAR/HVN Center 90 locations.

Item	Title/Subject	Description	Produced by	Identification Number	Poster Date	Mandated by	Location in Center	Poster Dimensions
1	And Justice For All	Prohibits discrimination in U.S. Department of Agriculture-related activity.	USDA	AD-475-B (E-S)	12/15	Federal regulation 7CFR 272.6(f)(2)	Prominently displayed and in all applicant/participant waiting areas	11 X 16
2	Resolving a Problem	Suggests alternatives to having a Fair Hearing.	FIA	FIA-1 (E-S)	11/09	Reynolds lawsuit	Prominently displayed	14 X 8 ½
3	Filing an Application	Lists types of programs for which one can apply.	FIA	FIA-7 (E)	03/13	Reynolds lawsuit	Prominently displayed	14 X 8 ½
4	Filing an Application	Lists types of programs for which one can apply (Spanish).	FIA	FIA-7 (S)	03/13	Reynolds lawsuit	Prominently displayed	14 X 8 ½
5 a.	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Information	Provides general information pertaining to SNAP program.	FIA	FIA-8 (E)	03/13	Reynolds lawsuit	Prominently displayed	8 ½ X 14
6 a.	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Information	Provides general information pertaining to SNAP program (Spanish).	FIA	FIA-8 (S)	03/13	Reynolds lawsuit	Prominently displayed	8 ½ X 14
7	Expedited SNAP Benefits	Lists eligibility requirements to receive SNAP benefits within five days.	FIA	FIA-9 (E-S)	03/13	Reynolds lawsuit	Prominently displayed	8 ½ X 14
8	What You Should Know If You Have An Emergency	Gives examples of what qualifies as an emergency.	FIA	FIA-10 (E)	8/10	Reynolds lawsuit	Prominently displayed	8 ½ X 14
9	What You Should Know If You Have An Emergency	Gives examples of what qualifies as an emergency (Spanish).	FIA	FIA-10 (S)	8/10	Reynolds lawsuit	Prominently displayed	8 ½ X 14
10	HRA Notice to Applicants	Notice about HRA's ability to assist with obtaining eligibility verification.	FIA	FIA-11 (E-S)	03/13	Reynolds lawsuit	Prominently displayed	14 X 8 ½
11	Cash Assistance Additional Allowances	Provides a list of special needs that may entitle a participant to an additional allowance.	FIA	FIA-12 (E)*	03/13	Brown lawsuit	All applicant/participant waiting areas	11 X 17
12	Cash Assistance Additional Allowances	Provides a list of special needs that may entitle a participant to an additional allowance (Spanish).	FIA	FIA-12 (S)*	03/13	Brown lawsuit	All applicant/participant waiting areas	11 X 17

DSS/HRA Relocating Job Center (66) and Williamsburg SNAP Center (S21)

This Center Director (CD) Memorandum is being issued to announce that the Bushwick Job Center #66 and Williamsburg SNAP Center (S21), currently located at 30 Thornton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206, 2nd floor, are moving to a new location at 2 George Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206. The last day of operation at 30 Thornton Street for Job Center #66 will be November 15, 2019, and for SNAP Center S21 will be November 22, 2019.

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

- Self-Service Check-in Stations (kiosks) at the Center will be used by applicants/participants, so they can self-route to the correct service area by issuing themselves a ticket.
- Self-Service Scanners will allow applicants/participants the option to submit documents without waiting for a Center staff member.
- Personal Computer Banks (PC Banks) will allow participants to submit a Cash Assistance (CA) Recertification form using the ACCESS HRA website.

Note: All staff should continue to use the same access codes for telephonic interpretation services. The American Sign Language (ASL) video equipment for both centers will remain accessible and the user name and password will remain the same. The hours of operation at Job Center #66 and SNAP Center S21 will remain the same: Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

IV. Reports, News and Notable Items

Feeding America - Updates Potential Government Shutdown

Funding for the entire federal government runs out on November 21, meaning that without enactment of legislation to extend funding each federal department and agency would be shut down on November 22. Current news reports indicate lawmakers are working to finalize a Continuing Resolution that would keep the government funded through December 20, and preliminary indications from the White House suggest the president would sign the measure.

Feeding America - SNAP ABAWD Rule Update

SNAP ABAWD Rule Update

In April of this year USDA closed the comment period for the ABAWD time-limit proposed rule. This rule would mean that thousands of Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents would be under a harsh work requirement, and if they fail to comply would lose their SNAP benefits. During the comment period, our network of food banks submitted over 41,000 comments to USDA to stress why this rule is harmful to the people and communities we serve. Currently, the rule is at the Office of Management and Budget, with the final rule close to being published, likely [next month](#).

FRAC-Proposed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rule on Standard Utility Allowance (SUAs)

<https://www.wptv.com/news/national/a-new-proposal-could-cut-4-5-billion-in-snap-funding-leaving-some-feeling-more-helpless-than-ever?>

Join FRAC in Submitting Comments against the proposal rule. Link comment here:

<https://frac.salsalabs.org/snap-sua/index.html>

Comment deadline: December 02, 2019

Food BANK NYC - Legislative Breakfast: Advancing Hunger & Poverty Solutions

We are pleased to invite you to be our guest at **Food Bank For New York City's Legislative Breakfast** on Monday, November 25th, generously hosted by the Intercontinental New York Barclay.

Join us to start the week of Thanksgiving with updates from the front lines of fighting hunger in New York City. We will share a new lens through which to view the experience of need, innovative solutions, and policy priorities that impact our network.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/legislative-breakfast-tickets-75047941413?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTgxMjg0NzUvbmJ1ZXNzQGZvb2RiYW5rbnljLm9yZy8w%0A&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=inviteformalv2&utm_term=attend

Mon, November 25, 2019

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM EST

InterContinental New York Barclay

111 East 48th Street

New York, NY 1001

THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY
2019