



FIA INFORMATION MEMO

Control Number: # 21-28

Effective Date: April 1, 2021

Issuance Date: April 13, 2021

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT,
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

FROM: LA SHERRA AYALA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: INCREASED EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(SNAP)**

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

SUMMARY:

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act authorized emergency allotments to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households to help address temporary food needs during the pandemic. Since March 2020, SNAP households have received Emergency Allotments (EA) in an amount equal to the maximum benefit for the household size, minus their monthly base benefit. FNS has reviewed this policy and determined that a new approach to EA will provide greater equity for households most in need.

NEW EA POLICY:

Under this new policy, households who had not been receiving EA payments and those whose EA payments were less than \$95 per month will receive increased benefits. EA payments will not change for households who have been receiving EA benefits of \$95 or more per month. Effective April 1, 2021, every SNAP household will receive at least \$95 of EA. Households eligible to receive increased EA benefits will receive the benefits through automated processes from the CARES and Eligibility and Enrollment (E&E) Systems.

EXAMPLE:

- A customer applied for SNAP on October 1, 2020, and was approved for \$204 for a household of one.
- In January 2021, a 15% increase to SNAP adjusted the max SNAP allotment to \$234.
- $\$234 - \$204 = \$30$ (\$30 was the EA amount that was issued to the customer.)
- New policy states that everyone must receive at least \$95 in EA benefits. $\$95 - \$30 = \$65$
- The customer is now entitled to an additional \$65 effective April 2021 in order to meet the new EA policy of every SNAP household receiving at least \$95 of EA.

INQUIRIES

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#) found on Knowledge Base as shown in the screenshot below.

The screenshot shows the DHS Knowledge Base website. The header includes the DHS logo, navigation menus for Administrations, Tools, Resources, Links, and Local Offices, and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Family Investment Administration' and contains two paragraphs of text. The left sidebar lists various links, with 'Contact us with your FIA Program Eligibility Policy Question' circled in red. The right sidebar features contact information for Labelle Hillgrove, MSOL, and Candice A. Roberts, FIA Executive Assistant. At the bottom, there are two data boxes showing 'FFY 2017 Job Placement Data Statewide Annual Goal Total' as 13,021 and 'FFY 2017 Job Placement Data Statewide Annual Achieved Total' as 12,240. A 'Tools' button is visible at the bottom right.

For systems questions, please email fia.bsdm@maryland.gov.

cc: DHS Executive Staff
Constituent Services
DHS Help Desk
FIA Management Staff
Office of Administrative Hearings