

 <p>DHS MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES Department of Human Services 311 West Saratoga Street Baltimore MD 21201</p>	<p>FIA INFORMATION MEMO</p>
<p>Control Number: #22-17</p>	<p>Effective Date: December 1, 2021 Issuance Date: March 31, 2022</p>

**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: EXPUNGEMENT PROCESS

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

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

SUMMARY

Effective December 2021, Maryland implemented changes to the expungement process for the SNAP program. SNAP benefits that have been dormant for 274 days will be expunged.

The final rule of SNAP: 2008 Farm Bill Provisions on Clarification of Split Issuance; Accrual of Benefits and Definition Changes was published on August 24, 2020. The final rule amends SNAP regulations to implement provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill regarding monthly benefit issuance allotments, storage of benefits off-line, and permanent expungement of unused benefits, as well as related benefits expungement and off-line storage provisions. To comply with the final rule, Maryland implemented the expungement processes in the new Maryland Eligibility and Enrollment (E&E) System. The following list summarizes the expungement requirements:

- State agencies must expunge unused benefits after 9 months, which is equivalent to 274 days.
- State agencies must send a notice to individual households no later than 30 days prior to expunging benefits.
- State agencies must expunge the remaining SNAP account balance of households when a

death match is verified for all certified members of the household.

For customers who have inactivity in their EBT account for 274 days, the benefits are expunged on the benefit level. Individual benefit authorizations are expunged if they are 274 days and older from the availability date (the date the benefit actually becomes available to the cardholder).

Maryland will expunge the remaining SNAP account balance of households when a death match is verified for all certified members of the household. When a SNAP account is marked as deceased, E&E will trigger same day expungement.

The updated changes with notices took effect on December 9, 2021, in the new E&E system.

REQUIRED ACTION:

No action is required by the local departments. The E&E system will be updated to recognize EBT cards with no account activity of more than 274 days, or when a death match occurs and apply the appropriate system activities automatically.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#) found on Knowledge Base or via email at fia.policy@maryland.gov for Montgomery County only.

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

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