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.

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