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: EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT BENEFITS TO CONTINUE PAST APRIL 2022

PROGRAM IMPACTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY

In March 2020, Maryland began issuing Emergency Allotments (EA) as part of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. SNAP EA is the difference between standard SNAP benefits and the maximum benefits established in the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) for the household size. On April 1, 2021, the federal government established that each SNAP household will receive a minimum $95 of EA; therefore, the effective benefit amount can be above the TFP maximum for certain households.

To issue SNAP EA benefits, the existence of a national Public Health Emergency (PHE) as well as a state-issued emergency declaration are required. While Maryland’s state of emergency declaration ended on August 15, 2021, FIA has been able to continue EA benefits under a departmental emergency decree. The emergency decree has been renewed allowing SNAP EA benefits to continue until June 30, 2022, or until the end of the national PHE.

Read AT: 21-28 Increased Emergency Allotment for more details regarding SNAP EA benefits. Below are some examples of how SNAP EA benefits are calculated.
EXAMPLE #1:
- A customer applied for SNAP on April 2, 2022, and was approved for $250 for a household of one.
- SNAP maximum for a household of one is $250.
- The customer is receiving the SNAP maximum for a household of one, therefore the customer is not receiving at least $95 of EA.
- The household’s new SNAP allotment is $250 + $95 (EA) = $345.

EXAMPLE #2:
- A customer applied for SNAP on April 2, 2022, and was approved for $145 for a household of one.
- SNAP maximum for a household of one is $250.
- The household’s new SNAP allotment is $250 which is the maximum SNAP allotment for a household of one because the increase to the maximum one-person SNAP benefit is more than $95.

EXAMPLE #3:
- A customer applied for SNAP on April 2, 2022, and was approved for $504 for a household of three.
- SNAP maximum for a household of three is $658.
- The household’s new SNAP allotment is $658 which is the maximum SNAP allotment for a household of three because the increase to the maximum three-person SNAP benefit is more than $95.

Approval to continue to issue EA is approved by our federal partners on a monthly basis.

Resource: October 2021 Income Guidelines

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

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