

SNAP Emergency Allotments

What are SNAP EAs?

As part of COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act established SNAP Emergency Allotments (EAs) for all SNAP recipient households. SNAP EA payments were an extra SNAP payment issued in the second half of each month in addition to recipients' regular SNAP benefit (which is paid in the first half of the month) effective March 2020.

When do SNAP EA payments end?

SNAP EA payments will end as of March 1, 2023 due to the passage of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. February 2023 is the final month in which SNAP EA payments will be issued.

How much were SNAP EA payments?

SNAP EA payments were in the amount of \$95 or whatever amount would bring a household up to the maximum benefit for their household size, whichever was greater.

Can I spend my SNAP EA funds after February 2023?

SNAP EA benefits have the same spending rules as regular SNAP benefits and will not expire unless the recipient's card is not used for nine months.

Will I receive more information about the ending of SNAP EAs?

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is sending a letter explaining the context of the ending of SNAP EA payments as well as a notice that informs households what their regular SNAP payment amount will be as of March 2023. DHS is also sending additional public communications to spread the word about this change such as a text message, email, press release, and social media posts.

The best place to go for more information on SNAP EAs is www.dhs.pa.gov/SNAPcares. This page includes FAQs and helpful links.

What if I need help getting food for me and my family?

DHS recognizes that the ending of SNAP EA payments will be a drastic change in spending power for some households. We encourage SNAP recipients to access the following resources if they need additional help feeding themselves and/or their family:

- Call 211 or visit www.pa211.org to connect with various local food resources.
- Visit www.feedingpa.org to find local food banks and other food assistance programs.
- Go to www.dhs.pa.org/ending-hunger and www.agriculture.pa.gov/foodinsecurity for information on assistance programs and other resources.
- SNAP recipients who are pregnant or have kids under 5 may be able to get help buying food from PA WIC. Call 1-800-WIC-WINS or apply online at www.pawic.com.
- The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides eligible seniors with vouchers redeemable at more than 800 farm stands and more than 200 farmers' markets in Pennsylvania. The Senior Food Box Program can also provide eligible seniors with additional shelf-stable groceries. Learn more about these programs from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.