



The Research Packet For  
**THE SNAP TASK FORCE**

Meeting of October 2018



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**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE****TABLE OF CONTENTS:****United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

1. A Short History of SNAP.....	3
2. Press Release: USDA Provides Additional Food Options To SNAP Participants Impacted by Hurricane Florence.....	6
3. Press Release: USDA Eases Program Rules for South Carolina SNAP Participants Impacted by Florence.....	7
4. USDA Invests In Customer Service Modernization Projects for SNAP.....	7
5. Press Release: USDA Announces Approval of D-SNAP for North Carolina Disaster Area	7

**New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)**

1. General Information System 18 TA/DC032: Home Energy Assistance Programs Forms Ordering and Availability.....	8
2. General Information System 18 TA/DC034: Released Revised LDSS-4943 "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits Categorical Eligibility Desk Guide".....	8
3. General Information System 18 TA/DC033: Abled-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Work Activity Letter.....	9
4. General Information System 18 TA DC035: Reminder of Claim Policy And Administration	9
5. General Information System 18 TA/DC036: Treatment of Hurricane Evacuees Applying for Temporary Assistance (TA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid.....	10
6. New York State SNAP Participation and Benefit Value in July 2018.....	10

**New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA)**

1. Policy Bulletins and Directives.....	11
• Policy Bulletin #18-61-OPE: Announcement of Changes to Extended Hours at Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Centers.....	12
• Policy Bulletin #18-65-ELI: October 2018 Changes For NYSNIP Households.....	12
• Policy Bulletin #18-15-ELI: October 2018 Changes in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Standards.....	12

**Reports and Notable Items from Other Sources**

1. Report From Center on Budget and Policy Priorities – Millions Struggle to Afford Food.....	13
2. Report From Pew Research Center – Facts on U.S. Immigrants, 2016 – Statistical Portrait of The Foreign-born Population in the United States.....	14

**Hunger and Poverty in the Media**

1. National News.....	16
• "The Future of the Farm Bill", Medium.com.....	16
2. Local News.....	17
• "Mayor De Blasio Vows to Fight "Broken" Trump Administration Immigration Rule Charge", NY Daily News.....	17

**APPENDICES**

Appendix A: LDSS-5127 Abled-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Work Activity Letter.....	18
Appendix B: POST-218 (MLF) Poster "To Service You Better".....	20
Appendix C: Mass Notice of Intent To Change SNAP/NYC October 2018.....	21
Appendix D: Mass Notice of Intent To Change SNAP/NYC October 2018.....	23



## I. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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### 1. A SHORT HISTORY OF SNAP, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/short-history-snap>

The first Food Stamp (FSP) operated by permitting people on relief to buy orange stamps equal to their normal food expenditures. For every \$1 worth of stamps purchased, 50 cents worth of blue stamps were received. Orange stamps could be used to buy any food. Blue stamps could only be used to buy food determined by the Department to be surplus. Over the course of the first 4 years (1939 – 1943) the program reached 20 million people at one time or another in nearly half of the counties in the United States, peak participation was 4 million, at total cost of \$263 million. The program ended in the spring of 1943 “since the conditions that brought the program into being-unmarketable food surpluses and widespread unemployment-no longer existed”.

On February 2, 1961, President Kennedy announced the initiation of the Food Stamp pilot programs. The pilot programs would retain the requirement that the food stamps be purchased, but eliminated the concept of special stamps for surplus foods. A Department spokesman indicated the emphasis would be on increasing the consumption of perishables.

On January 31, 1964, President Johnson requested Congress to pass legislation making the FSP permanent. Among the official purposes of the Food Stamp Act of 1964 were strengthening the agricultural economy and provide improved levels of nutrition among low-income households; however the practical purpose was to bring the pilot FSP under Congressional control and to enact the regulations into law. The major provisions were:

- Required a State Plan of Operation and development of eligibility standards by States;
- Required that recipients purchase their food stamps, paying an amount commensurate with their normal expenditures for food and receiving an amount of food stamps representing an opportunity more nearly to obtain low-cost nutritionally adequate diet;
- Established eligibility for purchased with food of all items intended for human consumption except alcoholic beverages and imported foods (the House version would have prohibited the purchase of soft drinks, luxury foods and frozen foods);
- Prohibited against discrimination on basis of race, religious creed, national origin, or political beliefs;
- Divided responsibilities between States (certification and issuance) and the Federal Government (funding of benefits and authorization of retailers and wholesalers), with share responsibility for funding costs of administration; and
- Appropriated for the first year funding limited to \$75 million. \$100 million for the second year; and \$200 million for the third year.

The early 1970s were a period of growth in participation; concerns about the cost of the providing benefits; and questions about administration, primarily timely certification. During this time the issue was framed that would dominate food stamp legislation ever after: How to balance program access with program accountability? Three major pieces of legislation shaped this period leading up to massive reform to follow:

The Food Stamp Act Amendment of 1970 passed on January 11, 1971 established uniform national standards of eligibility and work registration; required that allotments equivalent to the cost of a nutritionally adequate diet; limited household purchase requirements to 30 percent of their income; instated an outreach requirement; authorized the Department to pay 62.5 percent of specific administrative costs incurred by States; expanded the FSP to Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands and provided \$1.75 billion appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 1971.

Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 passed on August 10, 1973, and required States to expand the program to every political jurisdiction before July 1, 1974; expanded the program to drug addicts and alcoholics in treatment and rehabilitation centers; established semi-annual allotment adjustments, SSI cash-out, and bi-monthly issuance; introduced statutory complexity in the income definition (by including in-kind payments); and required the Department to establish temporary eligibility standard for disasters. The legislation also added seed and plants that produce food for human consumption as a category of eligible purchases with SNAP benefits. Though FSP began operating Nationwide in July 1, 1974 the program was not fully implemented in Puerto Rico until November 1, 1974.

The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 eliminated the purchase requirements because of the barrier to participation the requirements represented. In addition, the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977:

- Eliminated categorical eligibility;
- Established statutory income guideline at the poverty line;
- Established 10 categories of excluded income;
- Reduce the number of deductions used to calculate net income and established a standard deductions to place of eliminated deductions;
- Raised the resource limit to \$1,750;
- Penalized households whose head voluntary quit jobs;
- Established a job search requirement for nonexempt work registrants;
- Restricted eligibility for students and aliens;
- Eliminate the requirements that households must have cooking facilities;
- Established principle that stores must sell a substantial amount of staple foods to be authorized
- Established several access provisions:
  - Allowing using mail, telephone, or home visits for certification;

- Established a 30 day processing standard and inception of the concept of expedited benefits;
- Established SSI joint processing and coordination;
- Established notice, recertification, and retroactive benefit protections.

Recognition of the severe domestic hunger problem in the latter half of the 1980s led to incremental improvements in 1985 and 1987, such as eliminating sales tax on food stamp purchases, reinstatement of categorical eligibility, increase resource limit for most households (\$2,000), eligibility for the homeless and expanded nutrition education. In addition, the Food Stamp Act of 1985 required all States to implement an Employment and Training (E&T) program by April 1 1987.

The Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 was signed into law on September 19, 1988, and permitted one or more pilots to test whether the use of benefit cards or other automated or electronic benefit delivery system could enhance efficiency and effectiveness of operations for both program administration and recipients. Following this initiative, the Mickey Leland Memorial Domestic Hunger Relief Act of November 28, 1990 established the EBT as an issuance alternative and permitted the Department to continue to conduct EBT demonstration projects.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PROWRA) mandated that States implement EBT systems before October 1, 2002. A national standard of interoperability and portability applicable to electronic food stamp benefit transactions was established by the Electronic Benefit Transfer Interoperability and Portability Act of 2000 on February 11, 2000. Though FSP was authorized in the 1996 Farm Bill, major changes to program were enacted through PROWRA:

- Eliminated eligibility of most legal immigrants;
- Place a time limits on Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS);
- Required States to implement EBT;
- Froze the standard deductions, the vehicle limit, and the minimum benefit;
- Set the shelter cap and permitted States to make use of mandatory standard utility allowances;

Participation declined throughout the late 1990s, even more so than expected based on changes in PRWORA and falling unemployment. Program access and simplification of program rules were a major focus of proposed legislation. The 2002 Farm Bill was enacted in May 2002 and provided major changes to the program:

- Restored eligibility to qualified aliens who have been in the United States at least five years;
- Restored eligibility for immigrants receiving certain disability payments and for children, regardless of how long they have been in the country;
- Adjusted the standard deduction to vary by household size and indexed each year for inflation;

- Cut E&T funding and replaced the requirement of targeting at least 80 percent of E&T funds toward ABAWDS with a separate allocation to
- Reform the quality control (QC) system by basing financial sanctions on consecutive years of higher error rates and replaced enhanced funding for States with low error rates with a performance based system.

In response to the Great Recession which began in December of 2007 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was passed to stimulate the economy and stimulate economic recovery. Among the ARRA was the authority to increase SNAP benefit levels. SNAP household received the increase benefits between April 1, 2009 and December 31, 2013. Four person household the enhance benefits amounted to approximately \$80 extra per month in 2009. The Recovery Act provided nearly \$300 million to States for program administrative expensed in FY2009 and 2010.

The 2014 Farm Bill (The Agricultural Act of 2014) was signed into law by President Obama on February 7, 2014. Two years in the making. In the summer of 2013, the House of Representatives split the Farm Bill into two separate bills with farm programs in one bill and nutrition programs in another. The Senate passed a Farm Bill re-combing these two section and the bill was the basis for the conference committee's reconciliation in early 2014.

The 2014 Farm Bill made many important changes to SNAP. Among the retailer related provisions, it required FNS to update stocking standards used to authorize SNAP retailers and provided additional resources to fight retailer fraud. It also called for pilot testing the use of mobile devices to redeem SNAP and to pilot testing accepting SNAP benefit through online transactions. The definition of retailer was expanded to include government agencies and non-for-profits that purchase and deliver food to elderly/disabled, hence allowing the testing of home delivery for these vulnerable populations. The Farm Bill also authorized Food Insecurity and Nutrition (FINI) Grants to incentivize the purchase of produce at farmers markets and grocery stores.

The 2014 Farm Bill also made important changes to SNAP certification policy. Changes included requiring that household receive at least \$20 in LIHEAP benefits to qualify for the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA). The law also disqualified household where a member received substantial lottery or gambling winnings form participating in SNAP until they meet normal income and resource standards.

**2. PRESS RELEASE: USDA PROVIDES ADDITIONAL FOOD OPTIONS TO SNAP PARTICIPANTS IMPACTED BY HURRICANE FLORENCE, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**  
<<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2018/018618>>

USDA FNS has approved the waiver that will allow participants in SNAP in North Carolina to buy hot foods with their benefits through October 31, 2018. The waiver addresses the inability of those participants affected by the disaster to prepare food at home. In addition, USDA also approved a waiver to allow extended time for

SNAP participants affected to submit claims for food lost in the disaster. Affected households in North Carolina have until October 15 to report food losses and request replacement benefits.

### **3. PRESS RELEASE: USDA EASES PROGRAM RULES FOR SOUTH CAROLINA SNAP PARTICIPANTS IMPACTED BY FLORENCE, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018**

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2018/018918>

USDA granted flexibility to allow South Carolina residents to replace food purchased with SNAP benefits that was lost due to power outage or flooding caused by Hurricane Florence. Over 185,000 impacted households in 26 counties have until October 15, 2018 to report loss and request replacement benefits. FNS is ready to consider additional waivers and other actions to help participants upon request from the state.

### **4. USDA INVESTS IN CUSTOMER SERVICE MODERNIZATION PROJECTS FOR SNAP, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018**

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2018/fns-000618>

USDA FNS has announced \$5 million of investments in customer service projects to improve and modernize application processing in SNAP. USDA Process and Technology Improvement Grants (PTIG) awarded to the District of Columbia and state and county agencies in Alabama, Kansas, North Carolina, New Mexico and New York aim to:

- **Make the application process more convenient** with customer friendly access to basic information and shorter in-person wait times;
- **Enhance customer service for current participants** through simpler submission of verification documents and tactics to help clients meet deadlines; and
- **Streamline operations through technology** with systems improvements to reporting and tracking.

New York City Human Resource Administration were awarded \$1,237,950 to support efforts to streamline program administration and improve customer service.

### **5. PRESS REALES: USDA ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF D-SNAP FOR NORTH CAROLINA DISASTER AREA, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2018/019418>

USDA announced that North Carolina residents recovering from Hurricane Florence could be eligible for disaster food benefits through Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP). Households not normally eligible for regular SNAP may qualify for D-SNAP if they meet the disaster income limits and have qualifies disaster related expenses.

To be eligible for D-SNAP households must reside in the affected areas. These households will receive one month of benefits equivalent to the maximum amount of benefits normally issued to SNAP household of their size.

D-SNAP always begins after commercial channels of food distribution have been restored and families are able to purchase food to prepare at home. Affected households should look for public information notices from the State regarding locations of application sites and dates of application in each county.

Current participants may also receive a replacement SNAP benefits for food purchased with SNAP but lost due to the storm. SNAP participants will receive an auto pay of 60 percent of September SNAP benefits.

## **II. NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE**



### **1. GENERAL INFORMATIONAL SYSTEM 18TA/DC032: 2018-2019 HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FORMS ORDERING AND AVAILABILITY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2018/18DC032.pdf>

Informs social service district that the 12 forms used to administer the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) have been revised for the 2018-2019 program year and available for electronic download and ordering. All HEAP forms must be used to administer the 2018-2019 program HEAP components. Obsolete forms must be destroyed and must not be used moving for the 2018-2019 HEAP.

### **2. GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM 18 TA/DC034 RELEASE REVISED LDSS-4943 "SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) BENEFITS CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY DESK GUIDE", SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2018/18DC034.pdf>

Informs social service districts that the LDSS-4943 "SNAP Benefits Categorical Eligibility Desk Aide" has been update to reflect the new SNAP Poverty levels effective October 1, 2018. All previous versions of the LDSS-4943 must be destroyed and replaced.

### **3. GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM 18 TA/DC033: ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) WORK ACTIVITY LETTER, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2018/18DC033.pdf>

Provides social service districts with instruction and guidance regarding the policies and procedures associate with the implementation of federal requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) and the required commitment to offering and providing a qualifying work or training opportunity to all ABAWDS who are subjected to the ABAWD requirements to maintain eligibility for SNAP.

All districts, including those that qualify for a waiver must be evaluate each applicant/recipient employability and ABAWD status and enter the appropriate codes ion the Welfare Management System (WMS). Non-waived districts are required to offer and provide a qualifying work or training opportunity to all who are subjected to ABAWD requirements. Districts are required to offer and provide an ABAWD qualifying work or training opportunity to all at certification, recertification, and anytime when an individual's status changes and the individual become subject to ABAWD time limits.

District without an approved ABAWD waiver for all residents must monitor each ABAWD's compliance with the ABAWD requirements on a monthly basis, offer and provide a qualifying work activity to maintain SNAP eligibility. Districts must issue a Notice of Adverse Action (NOAA) in a timely manner to prevent the issuance of the fourth month of benefits for any ABAWD not eligible for the benefit due to not meeting the work requirements.

In addition, districts must provide the LDSS-5127 Abled-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Work Activity Letter to each ABAWD who resides in a SNAP household to offer the opportunity to meet with a staff member or contacted employment vendor for assistance in obtaining a qualifying work activity so that the ABAWD might continue to retain eligibility for SNAP beyond three-months. **See appendix A.**

#### **4. GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM 18 TA/DC035: REMINDER OF CLAIM POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018**

<<http://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2018/18DC035.pdf>>

Reminds social districts of certain SNAP overpayment claims policy and administration requirements. In response to findings in a recent USDA-FNS Management Evaluation review of "Status of Claims Against Households" Report. The findings pertain to the failure of districts to terminate claims with balances of less than \$25, and claims on which there has been no collection activity for over three years. In December 2018 state administratively terminated SNAP claims against closed cases if there has been no collection against the household's debt for three years. Districts do not need to take any action on the terminated cases unless the household becomes active on SNAP, at which point the claims may be re-established and becomes collectible through benefit reduction.

#### **5. GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM 18 TA/DC036: TREATMENT OF HURRICANE EVACUAEEES APPLYING FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE (TA), SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PRORAM (SNAP) AND MEDICAID, OCTOBER 1, 2018**

<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2018/18DC036.pd>

Provides social service districts guidance on meeting the needs of individuals and families who apply for emergency and recurring assistance [Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA)], SNAP, or Medicaid who identify themselves as evacuees of Hurricane Florence:

#### Temporary Assistance (TA)

- Displaced families and individuals may be eligible for emergency assistance including that needed to help establish a home.
- Individuals with income, (i.e. SSI, SSA, UIB or Child Support) who may not qualify for reoccurring SNA will have their immediate needs met under emergency SNA because the emergency is related to a catastrophe and the 125% gross income test does not apply.
- Districts must not consider as income or resources, any TA benefits received in the home state prior to their settlement in New York.
- Must complete a "Common Application" (LDSS-2921) and have a face-to-face interview.

#### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Hurricane Florence evacuees should be treated the same as any other SNAP applicant.
- Households residing with another household can be treated as a separate household even though they may be currently purchasing and preparing food together.
- Self-declarations and collateral sources may be the only verification available and may be used to satisfy documentation requirements.
- Identity may be established via SSN validation process.
- Assigned certification periods commensurate with the evacuee household's intention to return or not to return to their prior residence.

## **6. NEW YORK STATE SNAP PARTICIPATION AND BENEFIT VALUE IN JULY 2018**

<https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/2018/2018-07-stats.pd>

According to the latest data from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), SNAP participation across New York State decreased slightly from June to July 2018. Benefits also saw a slight decrease during this time-period. In New York City, 1,603,658 individuals received \$231,798,656 in SNAP benefits. The average SNAP benefit received by NYC households was \$253.

	PERSONS			HOUSEHOLDS			BENEFITS		
	JUNE 2018	JULY 2018	PERCENT CHANGE	JUNE 2018	JULY 2018	PERCENT CHANGE	JUNE 2018	JULY 2018	PERCENT CHANGE
New York State	2,769,827	2,756,993	-0.47%	1,557,053	1,549,426	-0.49%	\$377,714,895	\$375,473,155	-0.47%
New York City	1,607,466	1,603,658	-0.24%	923,170	920,116	-0.33%	\$233,289,479	\$231,798,656	-0.64%
Rest of State	1,162,361	1,153,335	-0.78%	633,883	629,310	-0.73%	\$144,425,416	\$143,674,499	-0.52%

	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE			AVERAGE BENEFITS PER HOUSEHOLD		
	JUNE 2018	JULY 2018	PERCENT CHANGE	JUNE 2018	JULY 2018	PERCENT CHANGE
New York State	1.789	1.779	0.56%	\$242.58	\$242.33	-0.10%
New York City	1.732	1.743	0.63%	\$252.70	\$251.92	-0.40%
Rest of State	1.822	1.833	0.60%	\$227.84	\$228.30	-0.51%

### III. NEW YORK CITY HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION



#### 1. POLICY BULLETINS AND DIRECTIVES

- *POLICY BULLETIN #18-61-OPE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES TO EXTENDED HOURS AT SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) CENTERS, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018*

Informs HRA staff that the "To Serve You Better" posters, FIA-61 and FIA-62 have been replaced by the "To Serve You Better" POST-218 (MLF) poster. POST-218 provides information about the following SNAP centers that have extended hours (Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 am – 6:00 pm). **See appendix B.**

- Concourse (\$45)
- East New York (\$28)
- Jamaica (\$54)
- Richmond (\$99)
- Waverly (\$19)

Fort Green (S20) Center which offered extended hours closed on September 14, 2018. East New York (S28) will provide extended hours in Brooklyn. In addition, Concourse S45, Jamaica S54 and Richmond S99 Centers will no longer offer Saturday hours.

➤ *POLICY BULLETIN #18-65-ELI: OCTOBER 2018 CHANGES FOR NYSNIP HOUSEHOLDS, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018*

Informs staff of the changes in the New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP) standardized benefit levels due to the October 1, 2018 annual adjustments in SNAP allotments and deductions:

	<b>SSI only</b>	<b>SSI + other income</b>
Shelter Type Code <b>94</b>	\$192	\$192
Shelter Type Code <b>95</b>	\$192	\$192
Shelter Type Code <b>96</b>	\$192	\$192
Shelter Type Code <b>96</b> (No SUA)	\$ 19	\$ 15
Shelter Type Code <b>97</b>	\$192	\$192
Shelter Type Code <b>97</b> (No SUA)	\$ 15	\$ 15
Shelter Type Code <b>98</b>	\$ 15	\$ 15

The State mailed the Mass Notice of Intent to Change SNAP/NYC October 2018 to all SNAP households. **See appendix C.**

➤ *POLICY BULLETIN #18-15-ELI: OCTOBER 2018 CHANGES IN SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) STANDARDS, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018*

Informs HRA staff of the released cost-of-living adjustments for SNAP effect on October 1, 2018. The adjustments will affect the following:

- Shelter cap value has increased from \$535 to \$552
- Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) amount for Heating/Cooling has increased from \$791 to \$800; the Utility SUA has also increased from \$300 to \$316
- Standard deduction based on household size has increased to \$164 for households with 1-3 people, \$174 for households with 4 people, \$204 for households with 5 people and \$234 for households with 6 or more people,
- Federal poverty limit (FPL) thresholds have been adjusted as follows:

Household size	200% of FPL*	165% of FPL**	150% of FPL***	Maximum Gross Monthly Income 130% of FPL	Maximum Net Monthly Income 100% of FPL	Maximum Allotment
1	\$2,023	\$1,670	\$1,518	\$1,316	\$1,012	\$192
2	\$2,743	\$2,264	\$2,058	\$1,784	\$1,372	\$353
3	\$3,463	\$2,858	\$2,598	\$2,252	\$1,732	\$505
4	\$4,183	\$3,452	\$3,138	\$2,720	\$2,092	\$642
5	\$4,903	\$4,046	\$3,678	\$3,188	\$2,452	\$762
6	\$5,623	\$4,640	\$4,218	\$3,656	\$2,812	\$914
7	\$6,343	\$5,234	\$4,758	\$4,124	\$3,172	\$1011
8	\$7,063	\$5,828	\$5,298	\$4,592	\$3,532	\$1155
Each Add'l Member	+\$720	+\$594	\$540	+\$468	+\$360	+\$144

- Certain households receiving SNAP under NYSNIP<sup>1</sup> may have their benefits adjusted as a result of these changes, per the benefits matrix below:

**NYSNIP BENEFITS MATRIX BY SHELTER TYPES**  
Effective 10/01/18 – 09/30/19

HOUSEHOLD		SNAP/FOOD STAMP MONTHLY BENEFIT		
		New York	Nassau/Suffo	Upstate
Shelter Type 94 (High Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$192	\$192	\$192
	Other Income	\$192	\$192	\$192
Shelter Type 95 (Low Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$192	\$187	\$162
	Other Income	\$192	\$178	\$153
Shelter Type 96 (High Shelter/ SUA/\$21)	SSI Only	\$192	\$192	\$192
	Other Income	\$192	\$192	\$192
Shelter Type 96 (High Shelter/ No SUA)	SSI Only	\$19	\$19	\$19
	Other Income	\$15	\$15	\$15
Shelter Type 97 (Low Shelter/ SUA/\$21)	SSI Only	\$192	\$187	\$162
	Other Income	\$192	\$178	\$153
Shelter Type 97 (Low Shelter/ No SUA)	SSI Only	\$15	\$15	\$15
	Other Income	\$15	\$15	\$15
Shelter Type 98 (No Shelter or SUA)	SSI Only	\$15	\$15	\$15
	Other Income	\$15	\$15	\$15

The State mailed a Mass Notice of Intent to Change SNAP/NYC October 2018. **See Appendix D.**

## IV. Reports and Notable Items from Other Sources

### 1. REPORT FROM CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES:

- *MILLIONS STILL STRUGGLING TO AFFORD FOOD, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018*  
<<https://www.cbpp.org/blog/millions-still-struggling-to-afford-food>>

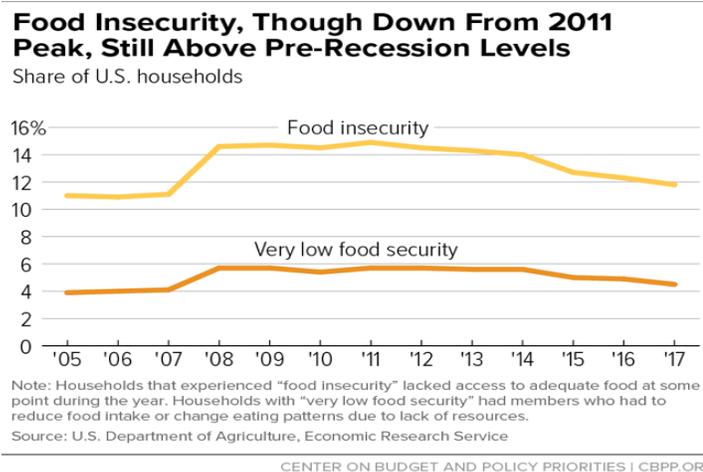
New Agriculture Department data shows 15 million households with 40 million people struggled to afford food at some point in 2017. That represents 11.8 percent

<sup>1</sup> New York State Nutrition Improvement Project

of household that experienced food insecurity – those in which some members struggled to afford adequate nutrition food at some point during the year.

These data are an important reminder to lawmakers drafting the final 2018 farm bill of how many Americans continue to struggle and why SNAP is important. Cutting SNAP as the partisan House passed farm bill proposes, would only put low-income households in greater risk of food insecurity.

About 5.8 million households reported having low food security in 2017, or a more severe form of food insecurity in which members take steps such as skipping meals because lack of resources. While this share has also declined from its post-recession peak, it still remains above pre-recession levels.



Households with children have higher rates of food insecurity about 15.7 percent of households with children and 16.4 percent of households with young children, were food insecure in 2017. Though parents and other household members often protect children from food insecurity, children experience food insecurity in about 2.9 million households with children and 540,000 children live in households where children experienced very low food insecurity.

The decline in food insecurity are promising but also show that despite many signs of a strong economy, millions of Americans continue to struggle to meet basic needs. Nearly 40 percent of Americans continue to struggle to meet basic needs (i.e. food, health care, housing or utilities) in 2017.

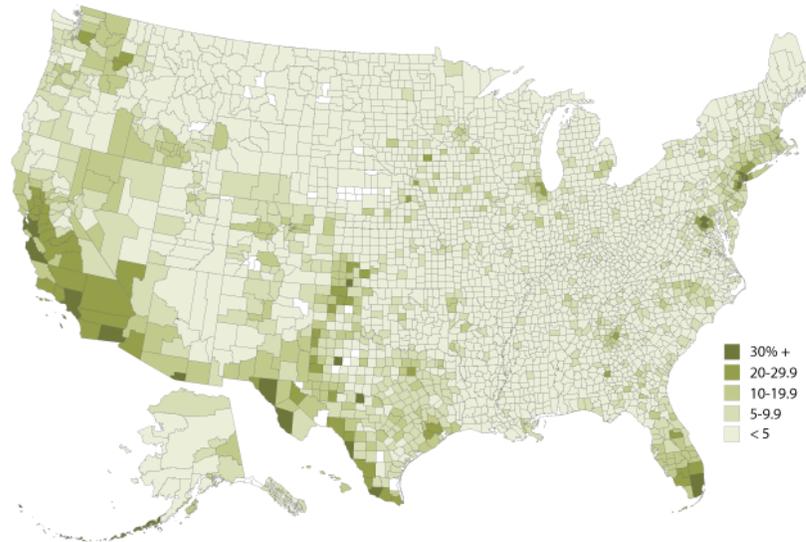
## 2. REPORT FROM PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- [FACTS ON U.S. IMMIGRANTS – STATISICAL PORTRAIT OF FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018](#)

< <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2018/09/14/facts-on-u-s-immigrants-county-maps/>>

The nation's foreign-born population has become more dispersed since 1990 but the Southwest region and large cities continue to have the highest concentration of immigrants. As of 2016, 19% of the immigrant population lives in the top five counties: Los Angeles County, California; Miami-Dade County, Florida; Harris County, Texas; Cook County, Illinois; and Queens County, New York. In comparison, 30% of the nation's immigrant population in 1990 lived in the top five counties at the time.

**Percent foreign born, by county, 2012-2016**



Note: Counties with fewer than 1,000 residents are shown in white.  
Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-year estimates via American FactFinder.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

In 2016 a record 43.7 million immigrants living in the U.S., making up 13.5% of the nation's population. This represents a more than fourfold increase since 1960, when only 9.7 million immigrants lived in the U.S., accounting to just 5.4% of the total U.S. population.

**Population, by nativity and citizenship status: 2016**

*Universe: 2016 resident population*

	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Percent of population</b>	<b>Percent of foreign born</b>
U.S. born	279,445,861	86.5 %	—
Foreign born	43,681,654	13.5	100.0 %
Citizen	21,266,342	6.6	48.7
Non-citizen	22,415,312	6.9	51.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>323,127,515</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>—</b>

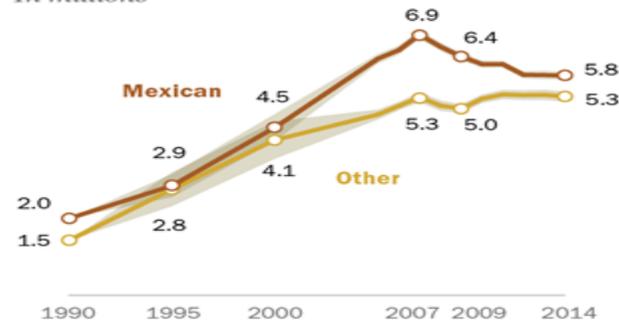
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2016 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).  
"Statistical Portrait of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 2016"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Most immigrants (76%) are in the country legally, while a quarter are unauthorized. In 2015, 44% were naturalized citizens. Some 27% of immigrants were permanent residents and 5% were temporary residents. Another 24% of all immigrants in 2015. From 1990 to 2007, the unauthorized immigrant population tripled in size from 3.5 million to a record high 12.2 million. During the Great Recession, the number declined by 1 million and since has leveled off. IN 2015, there was 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. accounting for 13.4% of the nation's population. The decline is largely due to a fall in the number from Mexico - the single largest group of unauthorized immigrants between 2007 and 2015. This group decreased by more than 1 million. This decline was offset by a rise in the number from Central America, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

### Among unauthorized immigrants, a decline from Mexico but rise from elsewhere since 2009

In millions



Note: Shading surrounding lines indicates low and high points of the estimated 90% confidence interval. The differences in 1995 and 2000 between Mexican and Other are not statistically significant at 90% confidence interval.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data (IPUMS); for 1995-2004 based on March Supplements of the Current Population Survey. Estimates for 1990 from Warren and Warren (2013).

"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



## V. Hunger and Poverty in the Media

### 1. NATIONAL NEWS

- "THE FUTURE OF THE FARM BILL," *MEDIUM*, OCTOBER 15, 2018  
<<https://medium.com/@endhunger/the-future-of-the-farm-bill-e8234fb3e704>>

While the Farm Bill has stalled in committee, Feeding America has written of its importance. Analyzing proposed changes to the Farm Bill that would be harmful to SNAP recipients, food banks, and those living with food insecurity across the

country. Feeding America anticipates 3.4 million people including adults, children, and seniors will lose access to SNAP if provisions from the House Farm Bill make it past the committee once members reconvene after the November 6<sup>th</sup> mid-term elections. One of the most significant proposed changes to SNAP would be the elimination of BBCE, which is especially crucial for low income families in high cost states like New York, who may qualify.

## 2. LOCAL

- *"MAYOR DE BLASIO VOWS TO FIGHT "BROKEN" TRUMP ADMINISTRATION RULE CNCHANGE," NY DAILY NEWS, OCTOBER 12, 2018*  
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-pol-deblasio-trump-nyc-public-charge-20181011-story.html>

The Mayor and New York City officials spoke out against the change to the "public charge" rule for immigrants after it was officially listed in the federal register on October 10. The rule expands the types of public assistance that would consider an immigrant a "public charge" when applying for a green card. The proposed rule change would expand the list of benefits to include SNAP, Medicaid, and housing assistance. The immigrants targeted by this change are documented immigrants in the country legally who are eligible to receive the benefits and pay into the funds for the benefits in their taxes. The rule change is not finalized and is subject to a 60-day public comment period, but the chaos surrounding the rule change has already scared many immigrant communities out of benefits- with many individuals asking that they be removed entirely from the roles.

If you are interested in making a comment regarding the rule change, you can visit [protectingimmigrantfamilies.org](http://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org)

**APPENDIX A**

LDSS-5127 (Rev. 9/18)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Work Activity Letter**

You are receiving this letter because you are applying for or receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits either individually or as a part of a household, and you are an Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) as defined by federal SNAP rules.

ABAWDs are only eligible to receive SNAP benefits for three (3) months in a 3-year period unless they meet certain special work requirements, or are excused. In New York State, this 3-year period began January 1, 2016. For each month that you receive a full month of SNAP benefits and do not meet your ABAWD work requirement, without a good reason, you will use up a countable month. Your SNAP eligibility worker keeps track of your countable months. Unless you are satisfying your ABAWD work requirement, you will be ineligible to receive SNAP benefits after your third countable month.

To assist you in meeting the ABAWD work requirements so that you might continue to receive your SNAP benefit without interruption, we have scheduled the following appointment for you. During this appointment, you will be offered a qualifying work activity that will enable you to meet the ABAWD work requirement, should you not be otherwise already engaged in a qualifying ABAWD work activity for a minimum of 80 hours a month.

Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are unable to keep the appointment, please contact us at the above number before your reporting time to arrange for a new appointment.

More information regarding ABAWD work requirements and qualifying exemptions is included on the next page.

If you believe you are exempt from the ABAWD work requirements for any reason; live in an area of the State covered by a full or partial federal ABAWD waiver; or, if you believe you are already meeting the ABAWD work requirements by working or participating in an ABAWD qualifying work activity, please contact us immediately and we will explain how you can verify your status.

**FAILURE TO MEET THE ABAWD WORK REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE FOR MORE THAN THREE MONTHS IN A 3 YEAR PERIOD WILL RESULT IN THE REDUCTION OR TERMINATION OF YOUR SNAP BENEFITS.**

LDSS-5127 (Rev. 9/18)

**ABAWD Work Requirements**

To maintain eligibility for SNAP benefits for more than three (3) months in the 3-year period starting January 1, 2016, each ABAWD must complete and document one of the following each month:

- Work (including “in-kind” work and volunteer work) for at least 20 hours weekly/80 hours monthly;
- Participate in a qualifying work/training program approved by the social services district for at least 80 hours per month;
- Comply with a Work Experience Program (WEP) assignment for the number of hours per month equal to your household’s SNAP benefit divided by the higher of the federal or State minimum wage;
- Participate in a program under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or Trade Act (WIOA) which may include job search, job readiness, occupational skills training and education activities for at least 80 hours per month; or
- Participate in a combination of work or qualifying work programs for at least 80 hours per month.

If you believe that you are meeting the ABAWD work requirements by working or participating in one of the above ABAWD qualifying work activities for at least 80 hours per month, please contact us at the above number to discuss this information and the documentation/verification necessary to show you are meeting the ABAWD work requirements.

**ABAWD Exemptions**

**The ABAWD time limit may not apply to you if you are:**

- Under 18 or 50 years of age or older
- Physically or mentally unable to work at least 80 hours a month
- A member of a SNAP household with someone under the age of 18
- Pregnant
- A recipient of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation
- Excused from the General work requirements. Some examples are:
  - You comply with work requirements for another program
  - You are responsible for the care of a child under 6 or an incapacitated person
  - You regularly participate in an alcohol or drug treatment program
  - You are applying for or receiving unemployment compensation
  - You are receiving a disability benefit from a public or private source, such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or NYS disability benefit
  - You already work at least 30 hours a week
  - You are a student in school at least half-time (although students may be subject to other work rules)

If you believe that you are exempt from the ABAWD work requirements, please contact us at the above number to discuss this information and the documentation/verification necessary to show that you qualify for an ABAWD exemption.

**APPENDIX B**

**TO SERVE YOU BETTER**  
**These Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**  
**centers are open from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM**  
**Monday through Friday.**  
**Waverly SNAP (S19) is open on Saturday too!**

**Estos centros del Programa Asistencial de Nutrición Suplementaria (SNAP) están abiertos de 8:30 AM a 6:00 PM de lunes a viernes. ¡El SNAP de Waverly (S19) también está abierto los sábados!**

<p>这些营养补充援助计划 (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP) 中心的开放时间为周一至周五 早上 8:30 至下午 6:00。 韦弗利 SNAP (S19) 周六照常开放!</p>	<p>這些補充營養協助計畫 (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP) 中心的開放時間為週一至週五早上 8:30 下午 6:00。 韋弗利 SNAP (S19) 週六也會開放!</p>	<p>Les centres suivants du Programme spécial de nutrition supplémentaire (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP) sont ouverts de 8 h 30 à 18 h, du lundi au vendredi. Waverly SNAP (S19) est également ouvert le samedi!</p>
<p>এইসব সম্পূর্ণক পুষ্টি সহায়ক কর্মসূচি (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP) কেন্দ্রগুলি সোমবার থেকে শুক্রবার সকাল ৮:৩০ থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০ টা পর্যন্ত। Waverly SNAP (S19) শনিবারেও খোলা থাকে!</p>	<p>Sant Program Asistans Nitris/or Siplemanre (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP) sa yo ouvri ant 8:30 AM ak 6:00 PM lendi jiska vandredi. Waverly SNAP (S19) lounvi Samdi tou!</p>	<p>본 보충 영양지원 프로그램 (SNAP) 센터는 월요일에서 금요일 오전 8:30에서 오후 6:00까지 운영됩니다. 웨이벌리 SNAP (S19)는 토요일에도 운영됩니다!</p>
<p>Te centra programu dodatkowej pomocy żywnościowej (SNAP) są czynne od 8:30 do 18:00, od poniedziałku do piątku. SNAP Waverly (S19) jest czynne także w soboty!</p>	<p>Перечисленные ниже центры Программы дополнительной продовольственной поддержки (SNAP) открыты с понедельника по пятницу с 8:30 до 18:00. Центр Waverly SNAP (S19) открыт и по субботам!</p>	<p>تفتح مراكز برنامج المساعدة الغذائية التكميلية (SNAP) أبوابها من الساعة 8:30 صباحاً حتى 6:00 مساءً من الاثنين حتى الجمعة. ويعمل مركز Waverly SNAP (S19) في أيام السبت أيضًا!</p>
<p>(Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP) کے یہ مراکز پیر تا جمعہ 8:30 بجے صبح تا 6:00 بجے شام کھلے رہتے ہیں۔ ویورلی (S19) SNAP ہفتہ کو بھی کھلا رہتا ہے!</p>	<p><b>MANHATTAN</b>  Waverly SNAP (S19)  12 West 14th Street 10011  <b>SATURDAY 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>BRONX</b>  Concourse SNAP (S45)  1365 Jerome Avenue 10452</p>
<p><b>BROOKLYN</b>  East New York SNAP (S28)  404 Pine Street 11208</p>	<p><b>QUEENS</b>  Jamaica SNAP (S54)  165-08 88th Avenue 10432</p>	<p><b>STATEN ISLAND</b>  Richmond SNAP (S99)  12 West 14th Street 10301</p>

POST-218(MLF)  
09/18

**APPENDIX C**

## Attachment A

HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION  
P.O. BOX 02-9121 BROOKLYN GPO  
BROOKLYN, NY 11202-9121

MASS NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE SNAP/NYC  
OCTOBER 2018

Case Number:  
Loc. Off./Unit Worker:

General Telephone No. for  
Questions or Help:

Dear SNAP Recipient:

The "Thrifty Food Plan" (TFP) is the maximum amount of SNAP benefits, per household size. Beginning October 1, 2018, the maximum amounts of SNAP benefits per household size will increase for households with more than one member. The new TFP amounts will be:

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Maximum Allotment	\$192	\$353	\$505	\$642	\$762	\$914	\$1,011	\$1,155

*Each additional household member add \$144.00*

The minimum SNAP benefit amount that a one or two-person household can receive will remain unchanged at \$15.00 per month.

Beginning October 1, 2018, some standards and deductions used to figure the amount of SNAP benefits a household gets will change. This is the result of federally-required changes. The SNAP Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction will increase by \$17, from \$535 to \$552.

The standard deduction amounts that will be used in the SNAP budgeting as of October 1, 2018 are:

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6+
Standard Deduction	\$164	\$164	\$164	\$174	\$204	\$234

The new Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) amounts, as of October 1, 2018 are:

New York City	Old SUA Values	New SUA Values
Heating / Air Conditioning SUA Values	\$791	\$800
Basic Utility SUA Values	\$313	\$316
Phone SUA	\$30	\$30

*(Note: The SUA values other than the Phone SUA include amounts for water, sewage, and trash collection)*

These changes may affect the amount of SNAP benefits you get. Depending on your individual circumstance the amount of your monthly SNAP benefit may not change, or it may decrease or increase as a result of these changes.

The Regulations which allows us to do this are **18 NYCRR 358-3.3(e)(1)(i), 387.10, 387.12 and 387.15.**

**Reporting Rules**

**Most SNAP households with income only have to report changes every six months.** Every six months, you either will be asked to recertify, or will be mailed a form for you to use to report changes. **The one exception to this rule is if your household's gross monthly income becomes more than 130% of the federal poverty level.** Your gross income includes all income any member of your household received during the calendar month before taxes and other deductions are taken out, not the amount you receive when you receive your check.

CONTINUED ON THE REVERSE

XL0025 (08/18)

1

**Attachment A**  
**MASS NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE SNAP**

OCTOBER '18/NYC

See Chart Below. The dollar amount shown under your household size shows the new 130% of poverty income limit for your household, as of October 1, 2018. If your household's gross monthly income becomes greater than this amount, you must report the new gross monthly income amount to your social services office by phone, in writing, or in person within 10 days after the end of the month.

Report Household Gross Income Over the Income Limits Below based on Your Household Size										
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Report if Gross Household Income Goes Over:	\$1,316	\$1,784	\$2,252	\$2,720	\$3,188	\$3,656	\$4,124	\$4,592	\$5,060	\$5,528

**Some households must report changes in their household circumstances within 10 days of the month following the month in which the change occurred. You must follow this reporting rule if your household has no income at all, if your household has no income from employment and all adults are either over age 60 or disabled, or if you receive SSI/SSD and you live in a state certified group home. Also, if your household contains a seasonal migrant farmworker, or if your household is certified for fewer than four months, or if your household is homeless ("undomiciled", without any shelter).**

The reduction to your SNAP benefits is a federally-mandated mass change to SNAP benefits amounts. Pursuant to federal regulations at 7 CFR 271.7(f), there is no right to a fair hearing to dispute this reduction. If you think some other mistake, such as an improper computation, was made in figuring your SNAP benefits, you may ask for a Fair Hearing within 90 days of when your October 2018 SNAP benefits become available. You can ask for a fair hearing by writing to: Office of Administrative Hearings, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, P.O. Box 1930, Albany, New York 12201; Faxing (518) 473-6735; on-line by requesting a form at: <http://www.otda.ny.gov/oah/forms.asp>; or by calling toll-free: 1-800-342-3334.

**LEGAL ASSISTANCE:** If you think you need a lawyer to help you with this problem, you may be able to get a lawyer at no cost to you by contacting your local Legal Aid Society or other legal advocate group. For the names of other lawyers, check your Yellow Pages under "Lawyers".

**APPENDIX D**

## Attachment A

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BROOKLYN, NY 11202-9121

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CONTINUED ON THE REVERSE

XL0025 (08/18)

1

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**MASS NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE SNAP**

OCTOBER '18/NYC

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XL025B (08/18)

**THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY  
2018**