



The Research Packet For

# THE SNAP TASK FORCE

Meeting of May 21, 2020



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## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE

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## I. United States Department of Agriculture



### SNAP Online Purchasing to Cover 90% of Households

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/05/20/snap-online-purchasing-cover-90-households>

**Washington, D.C., May 20, 2020)** – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced that households in 13 new states – Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia – will soon be able to purchase food online with their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Once operational, online purchasing will be available in 36 states and the District of Columbia, home to more than 90% of SNAP participants.

In less than six weeks, amidst an unprecedented situation, USDA has expanded SNAP online purchasing to 36 states and the District of Columbia – nearly three-quarters of the states, covering 90% of SNAP households.

In addition, Secretary Perdue also announced an expansion of independently owned and operated retail stores beyond those included in the original pilot. Soon more SNAP authorized retailers, under multiple store banners, will be accepting SNAP benefits online.

“We are expanding new flexibilities and innovative programs to make sure Americans across this country have safe and nutritious food during this national emergency,” said Secretary Perdue. “Enabling people to purchase foods online will go a long way in helping Americans follow CDC social distancing guidelines and help slow the spread of the coronavirus. USDA is mandated with the noble goal of feeding Americans when they need it most, and we are fulfilling that mission with new innovative programs during this national emergency.”

### **Background**

On April 18, 2019, Secretary Sonny Perdue announced the launch of the two-year [SNAP online purchasing pilot](#) that began in New York before being rolled out to additional states. As part of its response to COVID-19, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has worked closely with all interested states, retailers, and benefit processors to

make online purchasing a reality for more SNAP households. For retailers and states that are not yet able to participate in online purchasing, FNS recommends utilizing other options that retailers may already provide, such as Pay at Pick-up (also known as "Click and Collect"), where SNAP cardholders can shop online and then pay for their purchase using their EBT card at pick-up. SNAP recipients also have the ability to add an authorized user to their card to make purchases on their behalf.

### **USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in New York and Pennsylvania**

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<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/05/07/usda-approves-program-feed-kids-new-york-and-pennsylvania>

#### ***Pandemic EBT to Feed Children during COVID-19 National Emergency***

**(Washington, D.C., May 7, 2020)** – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced New York and Pennsylvania been approved to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), signed by President Trump, which provides assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals dealing with school closures.

**Background:** New York and Pennsylvania will be able to operate Pandemic EBT, a supplemental food purchasing benefit to current SNAP participants and as a new EBT benefit to other eligible households to offset the cost of meals that would have otherwise been consumed at school. For the 2019-2020 school year, Pennsylvania had approximately 956,000 children eligible for free-and reduced-priced lunch, or approximately 54% of children in participating schools.

For the 2019-2020 school year, New York had approximately **2.1 million children** eligible for free and reduced-priced lunch, or **nearly 72% of children** in participating schools.

Previous announcements of approvals for Pandemic EBT include: Previous announcements of approvals for Pandemic EBT include: [Michigan](#), [Rhode Island](#), [North Carolina](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Arizona](#), [Illinois](#), [Alabama](#), [Wisconsin](#), [California](#), [Connecticut](#), [Kansas](#), [Virginia](#), [Maryland](#), [New Mexico](#), [Delaware](#), [Oregon](#), [Maine](#), [North Dakota](#), [West Virginia](#), [Vermont](#), [New York](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Texas](#), [New Jersey](#), [Ohio](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Indiana](#), and [Louisiana](#), Colorado, Missouri, Wyoming

DSS-NYC Families of public school (or participating private school) children between the ages of 5 and 18 are eligible for the one-time benefit of \$420 for each eligible child, which represents the value of school meals for the period of time from March when the

schools closed until the end of the school year on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Payments will be issued for each eligible school-aged child living in the household.

There is no application process for receipt of these funds. Information for distribution of funds will be provided to State OTDA by local school districts (for NYC, the NYC Department of Education). OTDA will be using the March 2020 school enrollment data to determine eligibility by age and enrollment status.

Payments will be issued as follows:

- Families of eligible school-aged children who are currently receiving SNAP and Cash Assistance will receive a P-EBT benefit directly to their existing EBT cards. Families will receive \$420 for each eligible child. These benefits will be available on the following schedule:
  - On May 19<sup>th</sup> - \$193
  - On June 16<sup>th</sup> - \$227
- Families of eligible children with Medicaid-only cases will receive the full payment in the last two weeks of June. These benefits will be issued on a separate benefit card for each child in the household. The benefits will be issued in the name of the case-head.
- Families with eligible children who are not living in households receiving CA, SNAP, or Medicaid benefits will receive a P-EBT benefit of \$420 for each eligible child in the household. These children will be certified eligible by enrollment rosters from the NYC DOE. State OTDA anticipates issuing benefit cards for each eligible child to families in this cohort. Benefits are expected to be distributed by the State in July and August 2020.

Please be reminded that HRA has no role in the administration of these benefits. Distribution of these benefits will be handled directly by the State's vendor.

### [USDA Extends Flexibilities, Paves the Way for Meals for Kids to Continue through Summer](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/05/15/usda-extends-flexibilities-paves-way-meals-kids-continue-through)

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/05/15/usda-extends-flexibilities-paves-way-meals-kids-continue-through>

**Washington, D.C., May 15, 2020)** – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the extension of three nationwide waivers, giving child nutrition program operators the flexibility they need to continue to feed children while promoting social distancing and keeping families safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“USDA has been extremely aggressive in expanding flexibilities to ensure Americans who have been impacted by the coronavirus continue to receive the food they need for themselves and their families,” said Secretary Perdue. “As our nation reopens and people return to work, we want to continue to be flexible since there is not a one size fits all approach to feeding kids. Extending these waivers throughout the summer ensures local operators can make plans that best suit their communities and keep children fed.”

Throughout the pandemic, schools and local program sponsors have used flexibilities provided by USDA to find creative ways to [feed kids](#), such as setting up drive-thru pick-ups and delivering meals on bus routes. With the extension of these waivers, these innovative models can continue, without interruption, while state and local social distancing orders remain in place.

### **Background:**

Since March, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has made maximum use of existing program flexibilities and new authorities granted by Congress to make it as easy as possible for children to receive food through the department's nutrition assistance programs during the national health emergency. Today's announcement extends three key flexibilities that will allow current operations to continue without disruption and ensure states and program operators have time to plan for continued operations throughout the summer.

Today, FNS is extending the following waivers nationwide through August 31, 2020:

- **Non-Congregate Feeding:** FNS is allowing meals to be served to children outside of the normally-required group setting to support social distancing.
- **Parent Pickup:** FNS is allowing parents and/or guardians to pick up meals and bring them home to their children.
- **Meal Times:** FNS is waiving requirements that meals be served at certain standard times to allow for grab-n-go options. This also allows for multiple days-worth of meals to be provided at once. Link: <https://mealstoyou.org/about/>

### **[Meals to You to Serve 5 Million Meals a Week to Rural Children](#)**

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<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/05/05/meals-you-serve-5-million-meals-week-rural-children>

***New public-private partnership surpasses initial goal to serve five-times more kids during COVID-19***

**(Washington, D.C., May 5, 2020)** – Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced a major expansion of Meals to You, USDA's [innovative partnership](#) with the Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, McLane Global, and PepsiCo, to feed low-income kids in rural areas. The initiative will now serve nearly 5 million meals per week to rural children impacted by COVID-19-related school closures – five times its original goal.

“Uncertain and difficult times call for unprecedented actions and big picture ideas. Rural children affected by school closures faced food insecurity, but these great American groups and companies stepped up to help their fellow countrymen by delivering boxes of food across the country,” **said Secretary Sonny Perdue**. “This program has been so successful and faced such high demand that we are expanding to five million meals a week. Our partnership to feed kids embodies President Trump’s whole of America approach to tackling the coronavirus by utilizing the best of America – private sector ingenuity with public sector backing.”

“We are grateful to be a part of an innovative team made up of both the public and private sectors motivated by the strong desire to help our neighbors in need. We hope that the boxes of food will nourish children and communicate to their families that they are not in this tough circumstance alone,” **said Jeremy Everett, Executive Director, Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty**.

## **II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance**



General Information System (GIS) COVID-19 June Certification Periods Extension

<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2020/20DC038.pdf>

May 04, 2020, The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) that the certification periods for Temporary Assistance (TA)/Medicaid (MA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cases with certification periods expiring at the end

of June 2020 will be automatically extended for six months. This GIS builds upon GIS 20 TA/DC019, which extended the certification periods for those cases with certification periods expiring at the end of March, April and May 2020 for three months across the State. In rest of State districts, additional State actions will further extend those cases for an additional three months, for a total of six months. Additional guidance will be forthcoming when this action occurs. In NYC, the additional three-month extension has already occurred for the impacted cases. This extension is being granted because of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic may have had on the ability of households and local social services districts (districts) to complete the recertification process for these cases. Extending certification periods will ensure that households unable to comply with recertification requirements or whose recertifications could not be processed timely due to the effects of COVID-19 do not lose access to TA/MA and SNAP benefits. The extension also will ease the administrative burden faced by these districts in recovering from this pandemic

### General Information System (GIS) Message-COVID-19 Emergency Relief- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Treatment for Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2020/20DC035.pdf>

The purpose of this GIS message is to provide guidance to social services districts (districts) on how to treat Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payments authorized by H.R. 748 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act provides an additional \$600 in federally funded dollars each week to the unemployment compensation benefit of each eligible worker.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** FPUC payments were not exempted as income by the CARES Act for SNAP income eligibility purposes and must be budgeted as unearned income when determining SNAP eligibility.

\*\*HRA should remove the FPUC from the budget once it is no longer received. This should happen as soon as it is verified the household is no longer receiving the FPUC, but no later than December 31, 2020 unless an act of Congress extends the FPUC payments.

\*\*\* Per Federal Regulation Any portion of the UIB received as a retroactive lump sum payment should be excluded as income for SNAP eligibility purposes. The amount received as a lump sum payment would count as a resource in the month received.

**Temporary Assistance (TA)** FPUC payments are considered unearned income and must be budgeted when determining eligibility for TA

**Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** FPUC payments are considered unearned income for HEAP eligibility and benefit determinations and must be counted in the HEAP budget

## General Information System (GIS) Message: COVID-19 May Emergency Allotments to SNAP Households

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<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2020/20DC045.pdf>

May 12,2020 The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) that Emergency Allotments (EA) will be issued to some Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipient households that received benefits for the month of May 2020. The allotments were authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 and are being issued in accordance with the terms of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) memorandum of March 20, 2020

The EA benefits will be issued as supplements only to SNAP households that have not or will not receive the maximum household benefit, based on the household's size, for May 2020. The supplement will be the difference between the amount of SNAP benefits the household received for the month and the maximum benefit amount for the household's size. Only SNAP households that did not receive the maximum benefit for the size of the household for May are eligible for the EA supplement. This includes households that received a pro-rated, partial issuance for May.

The EA supplements will be issued automatically by OTDA. The EA supplements will be issued in ten cohorts, based on the case toe-digit, on 5/15/2020 and 5/16/2020, from 5/19/2020 through 5/23/2020 and from 5/27/2020 through 5/29/2020

OTDA has prepared a set of FAQs for SNAP households. The FAQs may be accessed at this link: <http://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions.asp>

## General Information System (GIS) Message, COVID-19 TA and SNAP Employment Requirements

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<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2020/20DC048.pdf>

May 14,2020, The purpose of this GIS is to remind social services districts (districts) that consistent with the information provided in GIS 20 TA/DC023, during the current public health crisis and until otherwise instructed by OTDA, districts must not take negative action against applicants or recipients for noncompliance with an employment requirement that requires in-person contact. It is appropriate for districts to refrain from making new work assignments that cannot be completed at home and to provide good cause exceptions for noncompliance for infractions incurred during this public health crisis.

Districts must continue to suspend all required in-person work activity assignments until further notice and are encouraged to provide assistance to those engaging in online educational or job readiness activities to prepare for further employment opportunities and to provide assistance to those seeking help obtaining a job to find work that is deemed an essential service (see [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov) for the listing of essential businesses) as well as employment opportunities with other employers as non-essential businesses begin to reopen.

Monthly Caseload Statistics – February 2020

<https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/2020/2020-01-stats.pdf>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program			
	This Month	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
	<b>2,560,098</b>	<b>-10,503 (-0.4%)</b>	<b>-130,480 (-4.8%)</b>
	<b>\$355,056,717</b>	<b>-\$1.5 mil (-0.4%)</b>	<b>-\$12.6 mil (-3.4%)</b>

Table 1  
TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE CASES  
February 2020

Region	Cases				
	Temporary Assistance by Program			Supplemental Security Income	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
	Total	Family Assistance-FP	Safety Net Assistance		
New York State	249,867	74,185	175,682	666,020	1,474,315
New York City	173,011	42,859	130,152	396,784	872,137
Rest of State	76,856	31,326	45,530	269,236	602,178



### III. New York City Human Resources Administration

#### MEMORANDUM: CBIC Shortened Hours During the COVID-19 Emergency

This Center Director (CD) Memorandum is being issued to announce that during the COVID-19 emergency, the two Common Benefit Identification Card (CBIC) Over the Counter (OTC) locations (Manhattan and Brooklyn) are shortening their business hours. The new hours of operation at both locations are Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If applicants/participants report to any open locations seeking a new or replacement CBIC, they should be given the Need a Common Benefit Identification Card During the COVID-19 Emergency? (FIA-1059c) notice that has the information about the new shorten hours during the COVID-19 emergency

#### **DSS: Issuance of Replacement or Temporary CBIC cards**

New applicants benefit card (EBT Card) are send to clients by mail. Commissioner and HRA have inform there is no need to come in to a service center to request a card or receive a replacement CBIC card. If an emergency card is needed for a new applicant who is eligible for expedited SNAP or an immediate needs grant, applicants can visit any HRA center that is open to request a Vault (temporary benefit card). Clients do not need to come to the CBIC distribution office in Brooklyn to obtain their cards.

Clients can request a replacement card online at [www.connectebt.com](http://www.connectebt.com) or call EBT Customer Service at (888) 328-6399 for account information or to request that a replacement Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card for SNAP or Cash Assistance be mailed.

Please be reminded that it is critical that we continue to comply with the State and local social distancing and stay at home orders. In order to do so, and keep both clients and staff safe, please encourage clients to utilize the mail service option to the extent possible for replacement card requests.

# *FIA -1059 c -Notice*



## **Need a Common Benefit Identification Card During the COVID-19 Emergency?**

If you need a Common Benefit Identification Card (CBIC) **right away**, you may go to one of the Over-the-Counter sites listed below. Sites are open Monday through Friday, except on city holidays.

You must bring valid proof of identity with you.

Remember, you **do not need to go** to an Over-the-Counter site to get a CBIC card. If you can wait, we will mail you one and you can have it in a few days.

If you already had a card but it is now lost, stolen, or damaged, you must have a stop put on the card by calling **1-888-328-6399**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When you call you can also request a new card. It will take 7-10 days to come in the mail.

People with disabilities may use the following numbers for assistance:

TTY Users: 1-800-662-1220  
 Non TTY Users: 1-800-421-1220  
 VCO Users: 1-877-826-6977

### **Mannhattan\***

109 East 16th Street, Ground Floor  
 (between Union Square East and Irving Place)  
 New York, NY 10003  
 Open: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

### **Brooklyn\***

227 Schermerhorn Street, Ground Floor  
 (between Bond Street and Hoyt Street)  
 Brooklyn, NY 11201  
 Open: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

\*Note our new hours during the COVID-19 emergency.

**For travel directions, please call the MTA at 511 or 718-330-1234.  
 You can also visit <http://www.mta.info>.**

## POLICY BULLETIN #20-18-ELI- SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) INTERVIEW AND PROCESSING DESK GUIDE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

April 09, 2020 , The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center staff and staff designated to assist the SNAP Program, that the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) has adjusted the interview requirements for SNAP in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the declaration of a State disaster emergency (Executive Order 202, March 7, 2020).

All SNAP applications must be screened for ESNAP. ACCESS HRA will use the information on the application to screen initially for ESNAP processing. However, with the waiver from the USDA, an interview is only required in limited instances when: The applicant's identity is not verified, not all of the mandatory verification documents are provided, and the applicant screens as ineligible for ESNAP processing.

Documentation Guide (COVID-19) has been created to help staff identify which documents may be used to prove each of these eligibility factors. Staff are reminded to always search the HRA OneViewer for any documentation that the agency already may have to prove any of these factors. In addition to the guide, below is a key point for each eligibility factor:

- Identity – A validated SSN is considered verification and no additional documentation would be needed for this eligibility factor
- Social Security Number – A validated SSN meets this threshold. To avoid a deferral, we must have validated SSNs for all household members.
- Residency – Only needs to be verified for the household, not each household member.
- Gross non-exempt income (earned and unearned) – staff must not rely on documentation in the HRA OneViewer if it is not current or contradicts what is on the application. As many employers are now closed, a signed statement from the applicant with contact information for the past employer will be sufficient.
- Disability – Verification is only needed if the application indicates that someone in the household has a disability. The mandatory nature of this is for someone who is receiving a benefit based on a disability.
- Immigration Status – Only needed if we do not have current documentation in the HRA OneViewer.

## Policy Bulletin #20-23- ELI- TREATMENT OF ONE-TIME COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR CASH ASSISTANCE (CA), SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform all Job Center, NonCash Assistance (NCA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center, and HIV/AIDS Administration Services (HASA) staff on how to treat stimulus rebate payments from the Federal Government's H.R. 748 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

The income and resource exclusions apply to both federally funded and state/locally funded categories of Safety Net Assistance (SNAFP and SNA-FNP), to Family Assistance (FA), and to all categories of emergency assistance including Emergency Assistance to Needy Families (EAF), Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA) and Emergency Assistance to Adults (EAA)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Stimulus rebate payments received under the CARES Act are not to be counted as income. They are to be excluded as a non-recurring, lump sum payment under federal regulation. New SNAP applications When processing a new application for SNAP, staff should exclude any stimulus rebate payments from being counted as a resource in the month received and the month after it is received. Any stimulus rebate balance remaining after that must be counted as a resource

### Policy Bulletin #20-23- ELI- OPENING OF THE 2019-2020 HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP) COOLING ASSISTANCE COMPONENT (CAC)

April 28,2020 ,The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform Job Center and Non Cash Assistance (NCA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center staff that the Cooling Assistance Program will open its Cooling Component on Friday, May 1, 2020. The program will run until Monday, August 31, 2020, or until funds are no longer available, whichever comes first. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) will provide eligible households with one air conditioning unit per household. The Cooling Assistance Component (CAC) does not include an additional HEAP cash benefit. To be eligible for a CAC benefit, the applicant or a household member must have a documented medical condition that is exacerbated by extreme heat. Please refer to the Home Energy Assistance Program Cooling Assistance Component Reference Tool (Attachment A) for more information. Households may now be eligible for a CAC benefit if they have not received a HEAP funded air conditioner in the past five years. Previously, households could only be eligible for a HEAP funded air conditioner if they have not received a HEAP funded one in the past ten years. Additionally, the household must not have a working air conditioner newer than 5 years old, as determined by the vendor.

### DSS –HRA Updates: SNAP Benefit Application Signature Waiver

#### **SNAP benefit application signature waiver**

Commissioner was very pleased to announce that we have received the much-anticipated Federal waiver submitted by the State on DSS's behalf for a signature waiver for SNAP applications submitted by HRA employees. We are working with the State to develop a process to allow our staff to complete a SNAP application for our clients over the telephone. Therefore, clients who are unable to use ACCESS HRA on their own due to any number of obstacles will be able to apply for benefits with telephone assistance.

Although this waiver is more limited than we had requested and does not extend to community organizations, we are confident that this service will provide needed application assistance to clients.

## DSS –HRA Updates – Authorized Representative Forms for Clients

### **Authorized Representative forms for clients**

We also want to remind service providers that while the SNAP and Cash Assistance signature waiver is limited to use by HRA employees, applications can be submitted by community organizations on behalf of clients by serving as an authorized representative for the client. Clients may authorize a representative to submit applications and communicate with HRA on their behalf.

To become an authorized representative, service providers will need to obtain a signed copy of [the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) Authorized Representative Request Form \(LDSS-4942\)](#) and complete the application on the individual's behalf on ACCESS HRA by doing the following:

- Step One: Once you have the signed and completed authorization in hand, create an account for the individual at [nyc.gov/accesshra](http://nyc.gov/accesshra) by selecting a username (this could be a username or email address), password and answering one security question. If the individual does not have an e-mail address, please select the User Name option.
- Step Two: During the course of completing the SNAP application, you will be asked to indicate if an Authorized Representative has been appointed to represent the individual. Indicate "Yes" and enter the information requested.
- Step Three: At the end of the application, you will need to initial the application as the authorized representative, using your own initials.
- Step Four: After submitting the SNAP application, IMMEDIATELY download the HRA Mobile Application at [nyc.gov/accesshramobile](http://nyc.gov/accesshramobile). Using the same credentials that

you used to login to the website, upload the completed and signed Authorized Representative Request Form referenced above, connecting it to the pending case. The form must be complete, signed and dated by both parties.

- If this step is not completed appropriately, the application will not be able to be processed. If you are unable to immediately link to the case, please note that application registration only occurs on business days and there is occasionally a delay in the Application Registration process, so the application may have not been registered yet. Please try again later.

### Human Resource Administration: Mediation Model Liaison Update

As a result of the COVID 19 emergency, SNAP has had to change the organization of the manner in which cases are processed. As such we have temporarily reassigned the HRA Mediation Liaisons until further notice. **All mediations** cases are to be email to Stephanie Gooding with copies to Earline Jenkins and Derek Sigh

Stephanie Gooding: [goodings@hra.nyc.gov](mailto:goodings@hra.nyc.gov)

Earline Jenkins: [jenkinsea@hra.nyc.gov](mailto:jenkinsea@hra.nyc.gov)

Derek Singh: [singho@hra.nyc.gov](mailto:singho@hra.nyc.gov)

## IV. Reports, News and Notable Items

### **FRAC - The Appeal News— COVID-19 EXPOSES STARK INEQUALITIES ACROSS U.S. AS THOUSANDS STRUGGLE DAILY TO FIND FOOD**

<https://theappeal.org/covid-19-exposes-stark-inequalities-across-u-s-as-thousands-struggle-daily-to-find-food/>

May 7, 2020

Experts say that increasing SNAP benefit amounts and accessibility will do more to reduce hunger than any emergency food effort can. “One of the priorities FRAC and Feeding America and other leading anti-hunger groups are pushing for in the next COVID-19 relief package is increasing the SNAP maximum benefits by 15 percent,” said Alex Ashbrook, director of special projects and initiatives at FRAC. “We have reams and reams of research showing how important SNAP is not only to the health and well-being of participants, but it’s also a stimulus to the economy. Every dollar of SNAP benefits generates between \$1.50 and \$1.80 in economic activity.”

## Feeding America - Feeding America Statement on House Introduction of HEROES Act

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/about-us/press-room/feeding-america-statement-house-introduction-heroes-act-1>

May 12, 2020

As the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization of 200 member food banks and 60,000 partner pantries and meal programs, Feeding America knows that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the most important and efficient way to provide help to families and local economies during this crisis. We support the inclusion of a 15-percent increase in the SNAP maximum benefit in the HEROES Act, as well as an increase of the minimum SNAP benefit to \$30. We also support the blocking of three administrative rules that, if finalized, would eliminate or severely limited food support for millions of households. The latest survey from our food bank network shows that we are seeing an average increase in demand of 60 percent across the country, with many families seeking charitable assistance for the first time. These three SNAP provisions are all essential to helping alleviate the increased demand on food banks during this crisis.

SNAP serves as the first line of defense against hunger for families who are low-income. In fact, for every meal the Feeding America network provides, SNAP provides nine

### **SNAP Month of Action**

Please continue to urge your members of Congress to support our fourth stimulus package policy priorities, including increasing SNAP benefits for all recipients by increasing the thrifty food plan by at least 15 percent, increasing the SNAP minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30, and providing \$500 million for TEFAP food and \$500 million for TEFAP storage and distribution. Below are resources you can use to advocate for our SNAP increase in the next stimulus package during our May SNAP month of action:

- **May 14-20: Email your members of Congress asking them to increase SNAP benefits.** You can use our [template email to Congress](#) to contact the lawmakers in your service area.
- **May 21-27: Set up a virtual meeting with your members of Congress and ask them to increase the maximum SNAP benefit by 15 percent. [We have talking points for you to use](#).** Help us continue to evolve our strategy by telling us how your meeting went by [sharing your meeting notes in Quorum](#).

### SNAP – Other information

DSS email outreach for Online Access HRA:  
[dssoutreach@dss.nyc.gov](mailto:dssoutreach@dss.nyc.gov)

Food Bank Food Pantry Link: <https://www.foodbanknyc.org/get-help/>  
Food Bank SNAP Link: <https://www.foodbanknyc.org/snap-assistance/>  
Food Bank SNAP Call Center: 212-894-8060

Action NY : <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/immigrants/help/legal-services/actionnyc.page>  
ActionNYC is for every immigrant New Yorker. It offers free, safe immigration legal help in a network of trusted community organizations and schools. **\*\*You must make an appointment to receive services. To make an appointment, call 1-800-354-0365 between 9AM-6PM, Monday - Friday or call 311 and say "ActionNYC"\*\***

ActionNYC is a partnership between the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and the [City University of New York](#).

**THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY**  
**2020**