



The Research Packet For

THE SNAP TASK FORCE

Meeting of October 17, 2019



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SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE

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I. United States Department of Agriculture



USDA Proposes Updates to SNAP Standard Utility Allowances
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/fns-001419>

WASHINGTON, October 1, 2019 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture is announcing a proposed rule to modernize the way utility costs are factored in when states calculate a household's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

The [proposed rule](#), which will go on public inspection later this week on www.FederalRegister.gov, replaces the patchwork of outdated approaches states currently use when assessing household utilities through the SNAP Standard Utility Allowance (SUA). Some of the allowances still used today, though adjusted for inflation, were developed in the 1970s, and states no longer even know how they were derived.

The proposal would replace these old, inconsistent calculations with a uniform approach based on national surveys of actual household utility costs in each state and decrease the administrative burden of maintaining these calculations at the state level. It would use modern, state-level data to set each heating-and-cooling SUA (HCSUA) at the 80th percentile of low-income households' utility costs in that state. The rule would also replace the outdated "telephone allowance" with a telecommunications allowance that covers basic internet costs – today, a necessity for school, work, and work training.

Proposed Rules:

SUMMARY: The proposed rule would revise Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations to standardize the methodology for calculating standard utility allowances (SUAs or standards). The new methodology would set the largest standard, the heating and cooling standard utility allowance (HCSUA), at the 80th percentile of low-income households' utility costs in the State. Standard allowances for other utility costs would subsequently be capped at a percentage of the HCSUA with the exception of an updated telecommunications SUA that would be a standard amount set nationally. These figures would continue to be updated annually and reflective of utility costs in each State.

II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



Local Commissioners Memorandum: Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds Final Rule

<http://otda.ny.gov/policy/directives/2019/LCM/19-LCM-09.pdf>

To provide guidance and direction on how to handle inquires made in the social services district regarding the Federal Department of Homeland Security published.

If an individual has a question specific to public charge, including but not limited to how the receipt of benefits might affect the individual immigration application or status, works should inform individual that they are not able to answer such question and refer them to NYS Office for New Americans (ONA) Hotilen-1800-566-7636

Monthly Caseload Statistics –July 2019

<http://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/2019/2019-07-stats.pdf>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program			
	This Month	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
	2,613,091	-10,086 (-0.4%)	-143,902 (-5.2%)
	\$359,014,508	-\$520,388 (-0.1%)	-\$16.5 mil (-4.4%)

Table 1
TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE CASES
July 2019

Region	Cases				
	Temporary Assistance by Program			Supplemental Security Income	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
	Total	Family Assistance-FP	Safety Net Assistance		
New York State	256,120	77,318	178,802	669,038	1,492,844
New York City	176,038	44,552	131,486	400,261	885,552
Rest of State	80,082	32,766	47,316	268,777	607,292



III. New York City Human Resources Administration

2019-09- IREA– September 13, 2019 – Procedure for servicing applicants participants who are limited English proficient LEP DEAF or Hard of Hearing

http://onlineresources.wnyc.net/nychra/docs/procedure_for_servicing_applicants-participants_who_are_limited_english_proficient_lep_deaf_or_hard-of-hearing_2019-09-irea_.pdf

This procedure is intended for all IREA investigators and other staff who work with applicants and participants. The procedure sets the IREA guidelines for providing language access services to members of the public, individuals being investigated for fraud, and HRA applicants and participants who are Limited English Proficient (LEP).

The term Limited English Proficient (LEP) is the national standard and the term is used by the Mayor's Office of Operations and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, as well as the State and Federal government. The Department of Social Services (DSS) Office of Refugee and Immigrant Affairs (ORIA) also uses the term LEP.

ORIA contracts professional vendors to provide telephone interpretation services, written translation services, sign language interpretation services, and on-site interpretation services. All IREA informational, instructional and application documents seen by applicants/participants or members of the public must be translated into eleven languages (Arabic, Bengali, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu) as required by Local Laws 30 and 73 and HRA policy. Local Law Forms (LLF) are available on HRA eDocs. They must be offered to all LEP applicants/participants upon request. Staff must offer translated documents to LEP applicants/participants who have indicated a preferred reading language in one of the Local Law 30 languages. Staff are required to ensure that applicants/participants understand any document given to them, no matter what the language.

Center Director (CD) Memorandum -Restructuring Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

This Center Director (CD) Memorandum is being issued to announce a new Human Resources Administration (HRA) / Family Independence Administration (FIA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) project that converts selected Home Center staff to On-Demand agents. This addresses the increase in call volume and the decreases in Home Center traffic and allows the On-Demand staff to have a rotating schedule where they are on the phone four out of five days and assigned to processing one out of five days.

All Telephone Interview Processing Services (TIPS), TIPS 24 and TIPS 43, are combined under one SNAP Center ID of TIPS 42 On-Demand. The three physical TIPS locations will remain and five satellite locations in the selected Home Centers have been established. On-Demand agents complete non-deferred application and non-deferred recertification cases during their four days on the phone, and on their fifth day they will process deferred/two-touch cases.

Staff from the following SNAP Home Centers have converted to On-Demand agents:

- Coney Island (**S22**);
- East New York (**S28**);
- Crotona (**S46**);
- Jamaica (**S54**);
- Richmond (**S99**).

A corresponding number of supervisory staff have also converted to On-Demand supervisors.

Effective September 16, 2019

Center Director (CD) Memorandum – September 18, 2019 – Benefit issuance Redemptions

This Center Director (CD) Memorandum is being issued to inform staff that due to a problem with daily redemption files, Cash Assistance (CA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit redemption information going back to early August 2019 has not been posted on Welfare Management System (WMS) benefit issuance screens.

In addition, if participants view their CA and SNAP account balances in Access HRA, the information on available balances may not be correct.

Going forward, the problem with the daily redemption files has been corrected. Previously unprocessed redemption files will be processed until the redemption information in WMS and Access HRA is fully updated.

Until all redemption files have been updated, Workers are not to use redemption information in WMS benefit issuance when determining if any benefits are to be replaced.

There is no problem with CA and SNAP benefits being posted to participants Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) accounts or their ability to access those benefits.

CA and SNAP participants can obtain accurate account balances using the toll-free number (888-328-6399) listed on their Common Benefit Identification Card (CBIC).

Effective Immediately

Policy Bulletin #19-47-ELI – September 27, 2019 –October 2019 Changes for NYSNYP Household

The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform Non-Cash Assistance (NCA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center staff of the changes in the New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP) standardized benefit levels. These changes are due to the annual adjustments in SNAP allotments and deductions and are effective October 1, 2019.

The NYSNIP standardized benefit levels effective October 1, 2019 are as follows:

	SSI only	SSI + other income
Shelter Type Code 94	\$194	\$194
Shelter Type Code 95	\$194	\$191
Shelter Type Code 96	\$194	\$194
Shelter Type Code 96 (No SUA)	\$ 16	\$ 16
Shelter Type Code 97	\$194	\$191
Shelter Type Code 97 (No SUA)	\$ 16	\$ 16
Shelter Type Code 98	\$ 16	\$ 16

The State mailed the Mass Notice of Intent to Change SNAP/ NYC October 2019 (see **Attachment A**) to all SNAP households.

The Welfare Management System (WMS) has been programmed to reflect the NYSNIP benefit changes. Most cases were re-budgeted centrally through a mass re-budget on the weekend of September 14-15, 2019. Cases that were centrally re-budgeted have a 10/A/19 budget effective date and can be identified by the unique authorization number **44446010**.

Effective October 1, 2019

Domestic Violence Awareness month- Domestic Violence Support

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/domestic-violence-support.page>

Domestic Violence Support

NYC 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-621-HOPE

Survivors of domestic violence may receive temporary housing, emergency shelter and supportive services for themselves and their children. All programs provide a safe environment as well as counseling, advocacy and referral services.

Domestic violence and abuse can include:

- Hitting, slapping, kicking or using any other kind of physical violence against you

- Forcing you to have sex when you don't want to, or to do sexual things you don't want to do
- Threatening to hurt you, your children, or someone else you care about
- Constantly insulting and criticizing you
- Stalking, obsessively checking up on or otherwise trying to control your behavior

If you or someone you know is experiencing this kind of behavior from a partner, please call New York City's 24 hour Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-621-HOPE.

Other contact numbers

Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP)

DSS/HRA Relocating Job Center (66) and Williamsburg SNAP Center (S21)

We are writing to inform you that the Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration (DSS/HRA) will be relocating the Bushwick Job Center (66) and Williamsburg SNAP Center (21) from their present location at 30 Thornton Street, Brooklyn NY 11206 to a new state-of-the-art facility at 2 George Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206. This new modern space will allow for an enhanced client experience.

The Bushwick Job Center administers Cash Assistance (CA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, as well as Medicaid, to New Yorkers in need. Services include processing applications, conducting application and recertification interviews to determine eligibility for benefits and services, and assisting clients with issues pertaining to case status, household composition, and benefit levels.

The Bushwick Job Center will conclude its services at 30 Thornton Street by 5:00 PM on **Friday, November 15, 2019**, and resume operations by 8:30AM at its permanent location of 2 George Street, on **Monday, September 18, 2019**. Regular operating hours at the Bushwick Job Center will continue to be from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

The Williamsburg SNAP Center administers SNAP-only benefits, conducting application and recertification interviews to establish eligibility for SNAP benefits.

The Williamsburg SNAP Center will conclude its services at 30 Thornton Street by 5:00 PM on **Friday, November 22, 2019**, and resume operations by 8:30AM at its permanent location of 2 George Street, on **Monday, September 25, 2019**. Regular operating hours at the Williamsburg SNAP Center will continue to be from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Please note that 2 George Street is in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, conveniently served by multiple subway and bus lines. It is within walking distance of the following

bus lines: B15, B46, B47, B54, and B57, as well as the following subway lines: M, J, and Z, at the Myrtle Avenue subway station.

Clients will be notified about the Bushwick Job Center and Williamsburg SNAP Center address change by mail, posted flyers at the Center and on the HRA website.

It should also be noted that SNAP clients can apply/recertify online from any computer through ACCESS HRA, submit their documents on their mobile phone through HRA's Mobile Document Upload application and conduct their SNAP eligibility interview by phone on-demand.

IV. Reports, News and Notable Items

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs –Public Charge Updates- Nationwide Injunction

As you likely know, **federal courts have blocked the public charge rule change from going into effect, for now.**

Nationwide injunctions have been entered in response to lawsuits brought by the City, together with the NYS Attorney General's Office, and the States of Connecticut and Vermont, as well as by other states and non-profit organizations. This means that the public charge rule change has **not** taken effect.

The court will continue to consider whether the “public charge” rule should be allowed to go into effect in the future, but that process will likely take some time.

Please visit The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs public charge website for up to date information. Updated outreach materials are forthcoming: nyc.gov/publiccharge

Key Information:

- The new public charge rule is not in effect. On October 11th, a court blocked it from going into effect for now.
- New Yorkers should not stop using public benefits unnecessarily. New Yorkers who have questions or concerns about public benefits and immigration should consult with a City-funded, free, safe immigration legal services provider by calling ActionNYC at [1-800-354-0365](tel:1-800-354-0365) and saying “public charge.”
- Many immigrants are exempt from any “public charge” test in their immigration applications. Those with questions should seek legal advice by calling ActionNYC at [1-800-354-0365](tel:1-800-354-0365) and saying “public charge.”

- Those immigrants who are sponsoring a family member abroad, or will be traveling abroad to apply for a green card or visa, should call ActionNYC at [1-800-354-0365](tel:1-800-354-0365).
- There is no “public charge” test for green card holders applying for citizenship.

FRAC- Court Block public Charge Rule

<https://frac.org/news/free-summer-meals-help-reduce-hunger-and-prevent-learning-loss-when-school-is-out-report-finds?>

Federal judges have issued five preliminary injunctions, including nationwide injunctions from courts in New York, Washington, and Maryland, blocking any implementation of the Trump administration’s [“public charge” regulations](#), which were scheduled to be implemented today, October 15. The orders, issued by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, find, in part, that the plaintiffs are likely to prevail at trial. A third court arrived at [similar legal findings](#) but limited the scope of its injunction. See [statement](#) from the National Immigration Law Center and CLASP.

FRAC-Proposed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rule on Standard Utility Allowance (SUAs)

<https://www.wptv.com/news/national/a-new-proposal-could-cut-4-5-billion-in-snap-funding-leaving-some-feeling-more-helpless-than-ever?>

[A new proposal could cut \\$4.5 billion in SNAP funding, leaving some ‘feeling more helpless than ever’](#) (WPTV, October 4, 2019)

A new proposal to change the way “Standard Utility Allowance” in SNAP is calculated could cut more than \$4.5 billion in SNAP funding. “What we do know now is that it will affect how much people get in SNAP benefits,” said Kimberly LoVano, director of advocacy and public education for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. This is the third SNAP proposed rule in the past 12 months, “so for a lot of the people that we serve, they keep hearing that there’s another change to SNAP and another change to benefits, and they’re not quite sure how it will impact them.” LoVano also said that any

any changes will affect the food bank, as SNAP provides nine meals for every one the food bank provides.

Join FRAC in Submitting Comments against the proposal rule. Link comment here:

<https://frac.salsalabs.org/snap-sua/index.html>

Foodbank for New York City- Members seeing the Impact of Public Charge

Foodbank did a survey on the Impact of Public charge to the network

What members are seeing/ hearing

- Request to removed names/addresses from agency records
- Fear of face-to-face contact
- Negative Impact on path to Citizenship
- Clients giving up benefits

THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY
2019