

Extra COVID Emergency SNAP benefits to end

Federal officials declared COVID Emergency SNAP allotments will end after February 2023.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesota received a waiver from the federal government to temporarily provide extra Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits known as Emergency SNAP, or E-SNAP.

The temporary increase boosted households' monthly benefit to the maximum allotment for their household size – or, if they were already getting the maximum amount, households received an additional \$95 each month.

Federal officials have declared that the extra COVID Emergency SNAP benefits will end after February. Because Emergency SNAP is issued the month after SNAP is approved, most households will get their last Emergency SNAP payment in March and benefits will return to the standard amount in April.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are E-SNAP benefits?

Emergency SNAP (E-SNAP) is an extra allotment of SNAP benefits for households to help cope with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The extra allotment increases an eligible SNAP recipient's benefit to the maximum allotment for their household size, with a minimum boost of \$95. Households that were already receiving the maximum allotment received an extra \$95 per month.

Since April 2020, Minnesota has used this temporary benefit program made available under the [Families First Coronavirus Relief Act](#).

Why are E-SNAP benefits ending?

The federal government approved the [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023](#), providing funding for the federal Fiscal Year 2023. Within the bill, the federal government declared the E-SNAP program would end after February 2023.

The federal government established the program and funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to help those who were struggling financially to pay for food. As the pandemic has waned and more people are now able to work, the federal government is ending the program and stopping the funding.

Why is E-SNAP ending when the public health emergency just got extended?

The [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023](#) overruled the previous law, the [Families First Coronavirus Act](#), which indicated E-SNAP would end after the public health emergency expired.

When will I get my last E-SNAP payment?

Since E-SNAP is issued the month after eligibility is determined, most clients will receive their final E-SNAP deposit in March.

If a household's SNAP eligibility for February is delayed, they may receive the last E-SNAP payment in a later month.

How will this affect my SNAP benefits?

Most households will get their last E-SNAP payment in March. Starting in April, most households will get only one SNAP payment. That amount will be the household's standard monthly benefit.

Who was eligible for E-SNAP benefits?

Households need to be eligible for more than \$0 in SNAP benefits for the month to qualify for E-SNAP. Households that were suspended for the month were not eligible for that month's E-SNAP.

What amount of SNAP benefits will I receive when E-SNAP ends?

A household's SNAP benefits will depend on standard factors, such as household size, income and deductions.

If a household's income, costs or household membership has not changed, their SNAP benefits should be similar to the amount they get early each month before they receive the additional E-SNAP benefit.

Clients can review the [SNAP benefits webpage](#) to help determine their monthly benefit.

What if I had a changes to my income, housing costs or the people in my household?

Report changes to your eligibility worker as soon as possible. These changes can include: an increase in the number of people in your SNAP household; changes to costs for shelter, utilities, child care or court ordered child support; or a decrease in your income. Reporting these changes may increase your regular monthly benefit amount. You will have to verify the changes. To report any changes to your household, call your local county or tribal eligibility worker using the [county and Tribal nation contact list](#).

[Learn more about SNAP reporting requirements here.](#)

When did E-SNAP start?

Congress enacted legislation under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) that allowed for the provision of additional SNAP benefits for eligible households in March 2020.

Need extra help?

We understand that this is a hard time for many Minnesotans. The following resources are available to help provide extra food help.

Minnesota Food Helpline provides help to people looking for food shelves, farmer's markets, market bucks and food programs. Call **1-888-711-1151** or visit **www.mnfoodhelpline.org**.

MNFoodHelper.org helps people with applying and recertifying for SNAP benefits.

WIC (Women, Infants and Children) provides nutritious food to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to age 5. Call **1-800-942-4030** or visit **health.state.mn.us/people/wic**.

2-1-1 provides a variety of human services resources and information. Call **2-1-1** or visit **211unitedway.org** for help with food resources, energy assistance, rent assistance, and more.