

SNAP Benefits Will Be Less For Some Households, Starting October 1, 2017

Due to an annual update to the maximum and minimum SNAP benefit required by federal law, some SNAP households will get a slightly lower benefit starting October 1, 2017. Households with a change in benefit amount will receive a mailed notice from DSS telling them of the new benefit amount.

Maximum benefit amounts are based on the market cost for a Thrifty Food Plan for a family of four, priced in June each year. The maximum benefits for households larger and smaller than four people are determined using a federal formula. Smaller households get slightly more per person than the four-person household while larger households get slightly less.

This year's formula resulted in a decrease in the maximum and minimum benefits we are allowed to give. Please see the charts below for current maximum and minimum benefits for each household size as well as the reduced benefits effective 10/1/2017.

This change is required by federal law.

If you disagree with this change, you may request a hearing within 90 days of the date on your notice. You may ask for a hearing by telephone (1-800-462-0134) or by mailing or faxing the request to the DSS Office of Administrative Hearings, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 (fax number 860-424-5729). At the hearing, you may speak for yourself or have someone else, such as a friend, relative or lawyer, speak for you. You may call Legal Services at 1-800-453-3320 to ask about free legal help.

A hearing decision cannot change the federal requirement to reduce the maximum and minimum benefit amounts.

You may continue to receive your current level of SNAP benefits pending the outcome of the hearing only if:

- you request a hearing by September 30th, 2017; AND
- the reason for the request is a mistake in our computation of your SNAP benefits or a mistake in our application or interpretation of federal law.

If you want to continue receiving your benefits pending the outcome of the hearing, you will need to explain the basis for that request. If the hearing decision upholds the Department's action, you will be required to pay back those benefits that you were not entitled to receive.

Again, this is a federally required reduction that applies to all SNAP households.

THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS.

PHONE 800-842-1509 or TDD/TTY 800-842-4524

Maximum SNAP Benefits

SNAP Household Members	Current	As of 10/1/17
1	\$194	\$192
2	\$357	\$352
3	\$511	\$504
4	\$649	\$640
5	\$771	\$760
6	\$925	\$913
7	\$1,022	\$1,009
8	\$1,169	\$1,153
Each Additional Person	+\$146	+\$144

Minimum SNAP Benefits

SNAP Household Members	Current	As of 10/1/17
1 - 2	\$16	\$15