

Your SNAP Benefit is Going Down November 1, 2013

What's happening?

Starting November 1, 2013 SNAP benefits are going down for everyone. This decrease in benefits is happening in every state across the country.

Most families will see their benefits go down by about \$11 per person. The new minimum benefit for 1 and 2 person families will be \$15.

Why is this happening?

The decrease is happening because the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is ending on October 31, 2013. ARRA was a law passed in 2009 to give a small temporary boost to SNAP while the economy was recovering. ARRA has not been renewed so benefits will go back down to their normal level.

Remember your medical deductions and child care expenses!

If you are over 60, living with a disability, or paying for child/dependent care, now would be a great time to make sure all of your allowable costs are being counted correctly in you SNAP budget.

How I can get more information about this?

You will be getting a letter in the mail from the New York State Office for Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) explaining this in more detail. **You can view your new SNAP benefit amount on the day you get your November benefit** online at mybenefits.ny.gov or by calling the Customer Service Help Line at **888.328.6399**, which is listed on the back of your EBT card.

If you have any questions, you can always speak with your local Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) Coordinator. Your NOEP Coordinator is a free and confidential partner in your community that can answer any questions you have about SNAP.

To Find a NOEP or for more information visit FoodHelpNY.org

If there is not a NOEP Coordinator in your community, you can contact your local SNAP Office. If you're not sure where your local SNAP office is you can call 1-800-342-3009 or go to <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/dss.asp> to find a SNAP office near you.