

January 2023

Dear Partner,

I am writing to inform you about upcoming changes to benefit allotments for the federal USDA Food and Nutrition Service Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Since April 2020, all Illinois SNAP households received both regular monthly benefits and an emergency SNAP allotment to address food insecurity challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. February 2023 will be the last month for SNAP households to receive the emergency SNAP allotment.

Under [direction](#) from the federal government, SNAP benefits will return to pre-pandemic levels, effective March 1, 2023. Each SNAP household will receive benefits based on the normal eligibility determination process that considers the household size, income, and deductions. Customers will receive normal SNAP benefits through their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card on their regularly scheduled issuance date.

The end of the SNAP emergency allotment will constitute a total decrease of between \$95 and \$255 per household per month. This amount will vary and depend on each household's size and financial circumstances. This is a result of a federal policy change, not because of changes in individual SNAP cases.

To prepare for this change, IDHS recommends that SNAP customers visit www.abe.illinois.gov and update their account if there is a change in address, increase in housing costs, or decrease in income. This will ensure that SNAP customers are receiving the maximum benefit for which they are eligible.

We understand and recognize that many Illinois residents have counted on the SNAP emergency allotment to get enough healthy food for themselves and their families. We are working with our [food pantry partners](#) across the state to meet residents' needs during this adjustment period.

IDHS has put together a [resource page](#) to help SNAP households with this transition. IDHS has also developed informational materials in English and Spanish, including a flyer and a copy of a letter SNAP customers will receive in the mail in the coming days. Materials in Polish, Mandarin Chinese, Tagalog, and Arabic are forthcoming. All materials can be accessed through an [online communication tool kit](#). Over the next several weeks, IDHS will be working closely with our network of community-based organization partners across the state to coordinate access to additional in-language support and resources.

As our valued partner, we need your help to reach constituents about this upcoming policy change. Please share the materials widely via social media, newsletters, town halls, and other relevant channels.

Thank you for your partnership, and please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Grace B. Hou