

Summit County Department of Job and Family Services

Change to SNAP Benefits Amounts FAQs

Additional FAQs are available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/changes-2023-benefit-amounts>

January 10, 2023

Why is my monthly benefit decreasing?

SNAP emergency allotments were a temporary strategy authorized by Congress to help low-income individuals and families deal with the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 law recently passed by Congress ends emergency allotments after the February 2023 issuance. This means by March 2023, all SNAP households' benefits will return to normal amounts, without the added supplement.

How much will my benefits change when emergency allotments end?

Emergency allotments allowed all SNAP households to receive an additional \$95 in benefits or an additional benefit valued up to the maximum benefit for their household size, whichever value is greater. When emergency allotments end, you will return to your normal SNAP benefit amount which, depending on your household income, may be less than the maximum benefit for your household size. *Recipients can review their benefit amounts by logging into the Self-Service Portal (SSP) at ssp.benefits.ohio.gov.*

Who is affected by the end of emergency allotments?

All SNAP households received a temporary boost in benefits due to emergency allotments, so all SNAP households will see a decrease to the SNAP benefits they receive when emergency allotments end.

How does the Social Security Administration cost of living adjustment impact SNAP benefits?

Every year the Social Security Administration is required to make a cost-of-living adjustment to ensure the Social Security benefits keep up with inflation. Social Security is the most common source of income for SNAP households. When Social Security or any household income goes up, SNAP benefits may go down.

While SSA's COLA impacts SNAP benefit amounts every year, the 2023 COLA is the largest in 40 years. Households that receive SNAP and Social Security benefits will see a decrease in their SNAP benefits as early as January 2023 because of a significant increase to their Social Security benefits to reflect the cost of living. However, the households will still experience a net gain, as the decrease in SNAP benefits is less than the increase in Social Security benefits.

What community resources are available to help?

If you or someone you know needs food assistance, contact 211 or call the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank at 330-535-6900 (akroncantonfoodbank.org/needfood).