

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Title of Rule: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (218-RICR-20-00-1)

Rule Identifier: 218-RICR-20-00-1

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: February 9, 2026

End of Public Comment: March 11, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

RIGL 40-6-8

R.I. Gen. Laws § § 42-35-2.10

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Department of Human Services is amending this rule in order to comply with the provisions set forth in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 (OBBA) (Pub. Law 119-21), also known as H.R. 1, as well as updates to the Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) for Fiscal Year 2026.

The proposed changes are included within the following sections: Citizenship and Eligible Non-Citizen Status (§ 1.4.2); Deductions and Expenses (§1.5.7 (C)(2)); Sources of Verification (1.6.3 (A)(4)); and Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) (§ 1.11.9)

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until March 11, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

karen vartebedian
Department of Human Services
41 West Road. Building #74
Cranston, RI 02920
DHS.PolicyFeedBack@dhs.ri.gov

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

Federally mandated changes and standardization allow for more consistency that align nationwide. These measures may strengthen program integrity, improve verification accuracy, and create more predictable budgeting for state agencies, while potentially increasing workforce participation among some adults.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.