



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

SNAP Annual Cost of Living Adjustment

Effective October 1, 2021

What is the SNAP COLA?

At the beginning of every federal fiscal year, the United States Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) adjusts maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, deductions and income eligibility standards. These adjustments are known as the “SNAP Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).” The SNAP COLA is based on changes in the cost of living and takes effect on October 1st of each year. The following elements of the COLA will change effective October 1, 2021.

Income Eligibility Standard Changes

The federal poverty level increased, resulting in an increase to the income eligibility standards. Below is a comparison of last year’s and this year’s gross income limits. SNAP has two income levels: one for households *without* an older adult (someone age 60 or older) or someone with a disability (185 percent), and one for households *with* an older adult or someone with a disability (200 percent).

	October 2020- September 2021	*NEW* October 2021- September 2022	October 2020- September 2021	*NEW* October 2021- September 2022
Household size	Maximum monthly gross income (185%) (Households without an older adult or someone with a disability)		Maximum monthly gross income (200%) (Households with an older adult or someone with a disability)	
1	\$1,968	\$1,987	\$2,128	\$2,148
2	\$2,658	\$2,686	\$2,874	\$2,904
3	\$3,349	\$3,386	\$3,620	\$3,660
4	\$4,040	\$4,087	\$4,368	\$4,418
5	\$4,730	\$4,786	\$5,114	\$5,174
6	\$5,421	\$5,485	\$5,860	\$5,930
Additional	Approx. \$691	Approx. \$701	Approx. \$748	Approx. \$756

In order to receive SNAP benefits, most households will also have to meet a net income test of 100 percent FPL. That income guideline also increased. Households with a member who is elderly or disabled may have higher gross incomes as long as they meet the net. Households of one or two people may be eligible by meeting the gross and not the net.

Deduction Changes

Deductions are used to establish a net income. The net income is used as a measure of eligibility as well as the basis of benefit calculation. Households may experience an increase in benefits as a result of the changes below.

Standard Deduction: A flat amount deducted from everyone’s income by household size. **The standard deduction has increased.**

Household Size	October 2020-September 2021	*NEW* October 2021-September 2022
1-3	\$167	\$177
4	\$181	\$184
5	\$212	\$215
6+	\$243	\$246

Standard Utility Allowance: A flat amount entered into the excess shelter deduction calculation for any household paying a heating or cooling bill or who receives a LIHEAP grant. The standard utility allowance (SUA) has increased **from \$636 to \$676.**

Maximum Shelter Deduction: the maximum shelter deduction available to a household where no one is elderly or disabled. The maximum shelter deduction has increased **from \$586 to \$597.**

Homeless Shelter Deduction: The homeless shelter deduction, for homeless households that have some shelter expenses, has increased **from \$156.74 to \$159.73.**

Standard Medical Deduction: Older adults (age 60 and over) and/or disabled individuals in a SNAP household who have allowable, unreimbursed medical expenses greater than \$35 per month combined for all qualifying household members, but no more than \$218 per month, are entitled to a Standard Medical Deduction of \$183 (previously \$141).

Minimum and Maximum Benefit Amounts

SNAP Minimum Benefits	
Current Minimum Benefit	\$19
New Minimum Benefit	\$20

SNAP Maximum Benefits		
Household Size	Current Maximum Benefit (January 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)	*New* Maximum Benefit October 2021 - September 2022
1	\$234	\$250
2	\$430	\$459
3	\$616	\$658
4	\$782	\$835
5	\$929	\$992
6	\$1,114	\$1,190
7	\$1,232	\$1,316
8	\$1,408	\$1,504
Each additional person	\$176	\$188

Have More Questions?

Visit our website: www.dhs.ri.gov

Call: 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347) M – F, except holidays, from 8:30AM-3:00PM Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Customer Service: 1-888-979-9939