



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** DHS Office of Policy Development

**Date:** November 4, 2021

**Subject:** Proposed Amendment to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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**RICR Title 218 – Rhode Island Department of Human Services  
Chapter 20 – Individual and Family Support Programs  
Part 1 – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) hereby proposes to file a Direct Final Rule to amend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for the implementation of annual Cost of Living Adjustments made by the USDA, Food and Nutrition Services as well as the addition of temporary expansion of student eligibilities during a nationally declared pandemic which allows for benefits under circumstances where they may have otherwise be excluded.

The list of changes includes:

- The standard deduction has increased.
- The standard utility allowance (SUA) has increased from \$636 to \$676.
- The maximum shelter deduction has increased from \$586 to \$597.
- The homeless shelter deduction, for homeless households that have some shelter expenses, has increased from \$156.74 to \$159.73.
- The Standard Medical Deduction has increased from \$141 to \$183.
- The maximum and minimum benefit amounts have increased.
- The gross and net income eligibility standards have increased.
- The maximum resource limit for change reporting households with at least one member who is age sixty (60) and older or is disabled has increased from three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) to three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750). The maximum asset limit for all other households has increased from two thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$2,250) to two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).
- The income threshold for required reporting of changes in household income has increased from one hundred dollars (\$100) to one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125).
- Added temporary expansion of student eligibilities during a nationally declared pandemic in §1.20 (A).

This proposed rule is accessible on the R.I. Secretary of State website (<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/218-20-00-1>), on the Department of Human Services website (<https://dhs.ri.gov/regulations/proposed-rules-and-regulations>) or available in hard copy upon request (401-462-2018 or RI Relay, dial 711).

If no formal objection is received on or before December 4, 2021, the Department of Human Services will file the amendment without opportunity for public comment. All written objections should be sent to Karen Vartebedian, Office of Policy Analysis, Research & Development, Department of Human Services, Louis Pasteur Building Bldg. #57, 25 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 or [karen.vartebedian@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:karen.vartebedian@dhs.ri.gov) and must be received not later than 11:59 PM December 4, 2021.

The Department of Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.