

**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: Direct Final Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: 11/04/2021

End of Public Comment: 12/04/2021

Authority for this Rulemaking:

RIGL 40-6-8

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

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 include:

- 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.- 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).

Additional Information and Comments:

If no formal objection is received on or before December 4, 2021, Department of Human Services will file the Amendment without opportunity for public comment..

Objections should be addressed to:

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Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

Updates that allow for inflation will increase allowable deduction amounts as well as income eligibility standards which results in increased benefits to increase benefits to SNAP participants. Also, the temporary expansion of student eligibilities during a nationally declared pandemic allows for benefits under circumstances where they may have otherwise be excluded.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above.