

**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: August 23, 2024

End of Public Comment: September 22, 2024

Rulemaking Authority:

RIGL 40-6-8

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

To comply with and implement Federally mandated increases to the Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) for recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program. In addition, an amendment has been made which adds the new qualified non-citizen category to COFA applicants under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 (CAA), Pub. Law 118-42, signed by the President on March 9, 2024. Lastly, language has also been amended at §1.21 Replacement of Food Caused by Disaster or Household Misfortune to include verbal notification of a loss of food destroyed in a disaster per FNS regulation.

The Agency does not expect this filing to be controversial and therefore, a public hearing will not be held.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

If no formal objection is received on or before September 22, 2024, the Department of Human Services will file the Amendment and the Final Rule will take effect on this date.

Objections should be addressed to:

Karen Vartabedian

Department of Human Services

Hazard Bldg. #74

41 West Rd. 1st Floor

Cranston, RI 02920

karen.vartabedian@dhs.ri.gov

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

To meet the needs of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, benefit amounts and deductions have increased to reflect recent changes in cost of living due to inflation. For SNAP eligibility, COFA citizens are not subject to a waiting period and are immediately eligible for benefits as long as they meet all other SNAP financial and non-financial eligibility requirements.

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