



IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

**OVERPAYMENTS IN SNAP BENEFITS**

Dear SNAP Beneficiary:

We want to ensure you receive the correct benefit amount based on your eligibility.

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) wants to remind you to please ensure the accuracy of information you provide both in written documents and applications, as well as in any interviews and discussions with DHS representatives. The information you provide helps determine your benefit amount. You must also report changes to your information as your personal circumstances change. Some changes must be reported within 10 days. Please refer to your specific change-reporting requirements found in your Benefit Decision Notice (BDN). If you receive more benefits than you are eligible to receive, you may be required by the federal government to pay those benefits back.

With this in mind, this message is to inform you that in accordance with federal requirements, DHS must re-start establishing claims against households for over-issued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The establishment of claims and collections on debts, other than those caused by intentional program violations, have been on pause since 2017 at the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). This pause has been lifted and DHS must once again resume claims collection activities.

Effective immediately, RI DHS will begin establishing SNAP Agency Error (AE) and Inadvertent Household Error (IHE) claims against households who have been overpaid in SNAP benefits. If your household is found to have received more benefits than it was eligible to receive because of an error made by you (or anyone in your household), or by an error made by the agency, you may receive a Demand Notice and be required to pay the overpaid benefits back to DHS. If you receive a Demand Notice, please follow the directions given on the notice. You will have a right to appeal an IHE or AE overpayment claim established against you.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this important matter.