

SNAP Eligibility Changes Being Implemented

October 1, 2018

Income Guideline Changes

The federal poverty level increased resulting in an increase to the maximum income guidelines. Below is a comparison of last year's gross income test (185% FPL) to this year's gross income.

	NEW October 2018-Sept. 2019	October 2017- September 2018
Household size	Maximum monthly gross income	Maximum monthly gross income
1	\$1,872	\$1,859
2	\$2,538	\$2,505
3	\$3,204	\$3,149
4	\$3,870	\$3,793
5	\$4,536	\$4,438
6	\$5,202	\$5,082
Additional	\$666	\$645

- In order to receive SNAP benefits most households will also have to meet a net income test of 100%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 just the gross without having to meet the net.

Deduction Changes

The deductions taken by DHS are 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	*NEW* October 2018-Sept. 2019	October 2017- September 2018
1-3	\$164	\$160
4	\$174	\$170
5	\$204	\$199
6+	\$234	\$228

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 or expects to receive a LIHEAP grant. **The standard utility allowance has increased from \$628 to \$635.**

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 \$535 to \$552.**

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Household Size	Current Maximum Benefit October 2017- Sept. 2018	New Maximum Benefit October 2018- Sept. 2019
1	\$192	\$192
2	\$352	\$353
3	\$504	\$505
4	\$640	\$642
5	\$760	\$762
6	\$913	\$914
Minimum benefit: \$15		

- **Changes to SNAP eligibility for ABAWDs:** According to federal guidelines, low-income able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) may only receive SNAP benefits for a total of 3 months within a 36-month period unless they meet the work requirements. Many cities in Rhode Island are exempt from the time limit, however as of September 1, 2018, time limits now apply to some SNAP recipients who reside in Barrington, Cumberland, Exeter, Glocester, Jamestown, Little Compton, Lincoln, Narragansett, Newport, N. Kingstown, N. Smithfield, Richmond, and Warwick, unless they meet certain exemptions. See enclosed flyer for more information.

