

SNAP Eligibility Changes Effective October 1, 2019

INCOME GUIDELINE CHANGES*

The federal poverty level increased resulting in an increase to the maximum income guidelines. The table below shows the change between last year's maximum gross income levels (185% FPL) and this year's levels.

	Previous Income Limits	New Income Limits
Household size	Maximum monthly gross income	Maximum monthly gross income
1	\$1,872	\$1,926
2	\$2,538	\$2,607
3	\$3,204	\$3,289
4	\$3,870	\$3,970
5	\$4,536	\$4,652
6	\$5,202	\$5,333
Additional	\$666	\$683

- To receive SNAP benefits most households also have to meet a net income test of 100% FPL. That income guideline also increased.
- In certain situations, households with an elderly member or a member with abilities may have higher gross incomes.
- Households of one or two people may be eligible just by meeting the gross income test.

DEDUCTION CHANGES*

Certain deductions are taken by DHS to establish a **net income**, which is used as a measure of eligibility and a basis for benefit calculation. Benefits may increase as a result of changes in any of the following deductions.

Standard Deduction: This is a flat amount based on household size that is deducted from the household's income. **The standard deduction has increased.**

Household Size	2018-2019 Deduction	2019-2020 Deduction
1-3	\$164	\$167
4	\$174	\$178
5	\$204	\$209
6+	\$234	\$240

Standard Utility Allowance: A flat amount entered into the excess shelter deduction calculation for any household that pays a utility bill (a heating or cooling bill) or receives or expects to receive a LIHEAP grant. **The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) has increased from \$635 to \$636.**

Maximum Shelter Deduction: This deduction is applied to households where no one is elderly or disabled. **The Maximum Shelter Deduction has increased from \$552 to \$569.**

Homeless Shelter Deduction: This is an alternative to the excess shelter deduction for homeless households that do not receive free shelter throughout the month, i.e., homeless households with some shelter expenses. **The Homeless Shelter Deduction has increased from \$147.55 to \$152.06.**

REPORTING THRESHOLD*

The threshold for required reporting of changes in household income to DHS has increased to \$100 a month.

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MONTHLY MAXIMUM BENEFIT AMOUNTS*

Household Size	Previous Maximum Benefit	New Maximum Benefit
1	\$192	\$194
2	\$353	\$355
3	\$505	\$509
4	\$642	\$646
5	\$762	\$768
6	\$914	\$921
7	\$1,011	\$1,018
8	\$1,155	\$1,164

MONTHLY MINIMUM BENEFIT AMOUNTS*

Previous Minimum Benefit	New Minimum Benefit
\$15	\$16

*All changes will be in effect from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

For more information about these changes or any other questions regarding SNAP eligibility and benefits, call the URI SNAP Outreach Hotline at:

1-866-306-0270

The SNAP Outreach Project is a collaboration among the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger-Free America, the RI Department of Human Services & the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The University of Rhode Island is an equal opportunity employer committed to the principles of affirmative action. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. October 2019.

