

Temporary OFI Policy and Program changes due to COVID 19, P.L. 116-159, or H.R. 133

April 6, 2020

Updated June 19, 2020

Updated July 14, 2020

Updated September 16, 2020

Updated October 9, 2020

Updated October 30, 2020

Updated December 3, 2020

Updated January 7, 2021

SNAP – Food Supplement Program – nutrition assistance

- Households will receive the maximum benefit for their household size from April 2020 through January 2021.
- Benefits for most households will increase 15% for January through June 2021.
- Applications and recertifications can be signed over the phone.
- The Worker Supplement Benefit (WSB) was increased from \$50 to \$100 monthly through June 2021.
- Waiving interviews for applications and recertifications is now a state option effective through at least June 2021.

MaineCare – Medicaid - medical assistance

- Most child or adult coverage will remain open during the national public health emergency.
- Verbal verification (self-attestation) is allowed for most requirements.
- No premium payments for programs with premiums.

TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – cash assistance for families

- Extensions beyond the lifetime 60 months limit will be granted through the civil emergency.
- Families that have already used 60 months of TANF can reapply and be granted extensions if otherwise eligible.
- No in-person interviews or program orientation will be required.
- No family will be sanctioned for ASPIRE non-compliance during the civil emergency.

Important reminders

- The General Assistance hotline number is **1-800-442-6003**.
- It is always possible for a SNAP participant to allow another trusted person to use their EBT card to purchase groceries for their SNAP household. That person just needs the card and pin number.
- Stay in touch with OFI online or by phone and report changes to your situation when they occur.

For more on OFI communications, options for applications and the latest program updates visit:

www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi

For more information on the Department of Health and Human Services coronavirus resources visit:

www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus-resources.shtml

This document will be updated. Please check back regularly for the latest information.