

Temporary OFI Policy and Program changes due to COVID 19, P.L. 116-159, P.L. 116-260, or P.L. 117-2

Created April 6, 2020

Last Updated June 17, 2021

SNAP – Food Supplement Program – nutrition assistance

- Households budgeted for at least \$1 will receive at least the maximum benefit for their household size from April 2020 through July 2021.
- May through July 2021, households budgeted for at least \$1 will receive at least \$95 more than their budgeted benefit.
- Households that receive a maximum benefit or minimum benefit amount will receive an increase of 15% for January through September 2021. All households receiving between the minimum and maximum benefit will see a greater increase.
- Applications, recertifications, and six-month reports can be signed over the phone.
- The Worker Supplement Benefit (WSB) was increased from \$50 to \$100 monthly through September 2021.
- Interviews for applications and recertifications are waived through September 2021 unless information needs to be clarified.
- Students who have been approved for federally funded work study or who have an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0 per the [EFC Formula Guide](#) may be eligible for Food Supplement.

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

- Emergency Extensions beyond the 60-month lifetime limit, based on the Civil State of Emergency will be granted through June 30, 2021.
- Families that have already used 60 months of TANF can reapply and be granted extensions through and past June 30, 2021 if otherwise eligible.
- No in-person interviews or program orientation will be required, unless requested by the applicant.
- No family will be sanctioned for ASPIRE non-compliance through June 30, 2021.

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.