

**Colorado Food Assistance Program
Stimulus Package Update
3-4-09**

Background

On February 17, 2009, the President signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), commonly known as the Economic Stimulus Package.

Change in Maximum Monthly Allotment

Included in the Act was a 13.6% increase to the maximum Food Assistance allotment amounts per household size. These changes are effective April 1, 2009.

Size of Household	Maximum Monthly Allotment
1	\$200
2	\$367
3	\$526
4	\$668
5	\$793
6	\$952
7	\$1052
8	\$1202
Each Additional Person	+150

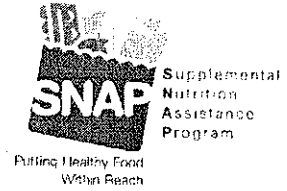
On-going Benefits

Ongoing benefits will also increase by 13.6% of the maximum benefit amount for the household size.

The on-going allotment amount will increase as indicated on the table below if no other changes are made affecting the Food Assistance case.

People in Household	Increase
1	+ \$24
2	+ \$44
3	+ \$63
4	+ \$80
5	+ \$95
6	+ \$114
7	+ \$126
8	+ \$144
Each extra person	+ \$18

Your Food Assistance Benefits Are Going Up!



Why are my benefits going up?

- There is a new law called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. You might have heard it called the stimulus package. Because of the law, you get more benefits.
- SNAP is the new Federal name for the program although in Colorado the program is called the Food Assistance Program.



How can I use the extra benefits?

- Use your extra benefits to buy food at your grocery store.
- In some places, Food Assistance also offers nutrition education to help you and your family learn to choose healthy food on a budget.



How do I get the extra benefits?

- The extra benefits will be added automatically to your EBT card. You do not have to do anything.
- You get the extra benefits starting April 2009.
- **How much extra do I get?**
- Some households with 1 or 2 people who get the minimum benefit of \$14 a month may get \$16 a month starting in April. Others may get more.
- Look at the table below to see how much more you may get each month.
- For example: If there are 3 people in your household and right now you get \$250 each month. In April, you will get \$313 each month. ($\$250 + \$63 = \313)



Note: This chart shows the additional amount most households in the lower 48 States and the District of Columbia will receive. Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and the Virgin Islands have different tables.

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For example:

- A household of 2 was receiving \$100 in benefits in March 2009.
- No other change affecting the benefit amount occurs.
- The household of 2 will receive an increase of \$44 (see table above).
- For April and ongoing months, the household will receive \$144 in benefits.
- $\$100 + \$44 = \$144$.

Minimum Benefit Amount

Households that receive the minimum allotment of \$14 for a 1 or 2 person household will receive a \$16 allotment.

Other

- The increased benefit amount will remain in effect until further notice from the federal government.
- The Cost of Living Adjustment normally seen in October of each year will be suspended until further notice.
- The 13.6% increase in benefits must be disregarded in determining the amount of over issuances that may occur for the months of April 2009 through September 2009.
- Ongoing cases will receive the benefit increase automatically as a mass change. As is true with all mass updates, cases that did not process in the mass change will be listed on the daily exception report. Workers will need to manually run and authorize cases on this report for the change to take place.

Federal Administrative Funds

USDA FNS is allocating 100% federal administrative funds to each state. 75% of the funds will be allocated to Colorado based on the state's percentage of the national caseload. 25% of the funds will be allocated based on the state's growth in caseload size for the past 12 months.

ABAWDs

There may be some changes to how Colorado as a Pledge State handles the ABAWD provisions set forth in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reform Act of 1996. However, the State is still awaiting guidance from FNS before proceeding.