



New York Public Welfare Association, Inc.

Founded in 1869

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January 9, 2023

Commissioner Daniel W. Tietz
NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
40 North Pearl Street
Albany, New York 12243

Dear Commissioner Tietz:

All eyes are focused on March 2023, when there will be no more SNAP emergency allotments. Every local Social Services office is pursuing how they will address the needs of their communities when the SNAP supplements end. Due to the rising cost of food, families are at a loss as to how they will manage. Local commissioners are collaborating with not-for-profit agencies, food pantries, and churches that offer meals. There is a tremendous amount of effort underway and resources are in short supply.

OTDA is an essential leader in communicating the policy change to people who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The residents of the State of New York need a state hotline to answer their questions so that local districts are not flooded with calls and in person visits to ask about a change in federal policy which is outside local control. A media blitz, to supplement OTDA letters to recipients, may be helpful if a state hotline number is provided. Otherwise, it will create more chaos as people converge in DSS lobbies and overrun the phones. Instead, local DSS staff need to devote their time to helping applicants who are seeking public assistance benefits and services.

It would be of great value if you can confirm that the termination of the SNAP supplement will not trigger fair hearing rights. If this is not the case, we recommend a change in state regulations. Absent that, we would expect a consolidation of the fair hearings as permitted by 18 NYCRR 358-5.10 due to the sole issue in each hearing being an objection to either Federal or State law, regulation or policy. We are seeking state agency actions to help people understand the loss of their SNAP supplement so that they do not go on an extended search for answers that will lead to further frustration and despair.

Every effort is needed to enable local DSS staff to make eligibility determinations and provide assistance instead of losing precious time to explain a change in federal policy outside of their control.

We appreciate your leadership and all the work that OTDA staff do every day to support local districts.

Sincerely,

Cc: Eileen Tiberio, NYPWA
President & Ontario County DSS

Sheila Harrigan
Executive Director

Reference: [Changes to SNAP Benefit Amounts - 2023 | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

“The temporary boost to SNAP benefits put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, known as emergency allotments, will end nationwide after the February 2023 issuance. In addition, households that receive SNAP and Social Security benefits will see a decrease in their SNAP benefits because of the significant cost of living increase to Social Security benefits that took effect on Jan. 1, 2023.” And “**March 2023** SNAP benefit amounts return to normal for all SNAP households. For households that also receive Social Security, their SNAP benefit may decrease because of their higher Social Security benefit.” Posted 01-05-23