

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is EA (emergency allotments), also known as maximum allotments (MA)?

Colorado SNAP households have been getting an extra amount of benefits every month since March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. These extra benefits are called “Emergency Allotments or Max Allotments” and most households have been getting this on top of their regular SNAP benefits. These Emergency Allotments were authorized by Congress, but they are temporary, and will be ending in March 2023.

2. Why is the emergency/max allotment ending?

SNAP Emergency or Max Allotment is ending with the benefit month of February 2023 due to recent congressional action. Colorado was approved to issue additional SNAP benefits due to the State and Federal emergency declarations that were in place during the pandemic. There is nothing the state or counties can do to extend the emergency allotment benefits once they have ended.

3. How will this impact me?

A final Emergency Allotment will be issued in February 2023. You will see a reduction in your monthly SNAP benefits beginning March 2023. This may have a significant impact on families.

4. Will I still get SNAP benefits after the emergency/max allotment ends?

Yes, you will continue to receive your regular SNAP benefits as long as you remain eligible for this program. Your benefit amounts are based on a number of factors, including, household size, income, and your specific circumstances.

5. When will SNAP max allotment end?

February 2023 will be the last month households will receive max allotment/emergency allotments. Beginning in March 2023 SNAP households will see a reduction in monthly SNAP benefits.

6. I received a notice that my SNAP benefits will be reduced/closed. Can I appeal?

CDHS and County offices cannot continue the additional benefits once maximum allotments have ended in March 2023, even if you appeal the action to end the additional benefits. You are able to appeal if you believe the base benefit calculation is incorrect.

7. How much will my benefits be after maximum allotment ends?

You should receive a notice any time your benefit changes to inform you of your current benefit level. You can access your notices via the [Colorado PEAK website](#) and the MyCOBenefits app.

8. What can I do to help my family through this change?

We know this change may have a significant impact on many SNAP families. To help reduce the impact on households, families can:

- Roll over EBT benefits to the next month if you are able to. This may help cushion the impact of the reduction in benefits.
- Stock up on non-perishable items now, while you have the additional benefits. (View tips on stocking your pantry in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).)

- Stretch food ingredients and plan to use them in more than one meal. This helps to save money and reduce food waste. (View tips on stretching ingredients in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).)
- Consider freezing produce to make fruit and vegetables last longer. (View tips on freezing food in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).)
- Look at unit prices to compare similar products at the grocery store. (View tips on comparing prices in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).)

9. Who can I contact for additional information or questions?

SNAP participants can call their local county human services office for questions about their benefits. For more information, please visit <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/snap>

10. Who do I contact if I have questions on this toolkit?

Please email SNAP Outreach team at cdhs_snap_outreacheducation@state.co.us