

SNAP Benefits (*Food Stamps*) Will be Less For Some Households, Starting November 1, 2013

We are sending you this notice to tell you about a change that we have to make to your SNAP benefit.

In April 2009, a law called The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 raised SNAP benefits to help people affected by the recession. Also known as the “stimulus package”, the increased benefits provided by this law are expected to expire on November 1, 2013.

Even though your benefits were adjusted on October 1, 2013 to reflect change increases in the cost of living, most families will see their benefits **decreased** on November 1, 2013 due to the end of the extra benefits provided by the 2009 ARRA law. The amount of the decreases will vary dependent one the income, household size, and expenses of each individual household. For some households, the monthly SNAP benefit will be less than it is now. Your benefit will go from \$_____ to \$_____ as of November 1, 2013.

This is a Federally-Required Change

In accordance with The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 maximum allotments can only remain the same each year until the regular Thrifty Food Plan adjustment increased allotments above those set by the Recovery Act. This provision sunsets effective November 1, 2013.

If you disagree with this decision, you may request a hearing within 90 days of this notice. You may ask for a hearing by telephone (1-800-462-0134) or by mailing or faxing the request to the DSS Office of Administrative Hearings, 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT 06106, Fax Number 860-424-5729. At the hearing, you may speak for yourself or have someone else, such as a friend, relative or lawyer, speak for you. You may call Legal Services at 1-800-453-3320 to ask about free legal help. Please note that a hearing decision cannot change the federal requirement to reduce the heating and fuel deduction.

You may continue to receive your current level of SNAP benefits pending the outcome of the hearing only if:

- you request a hearing within 10 days of the date on this notice; **AND**
- the reason for the request is a mistake in our computation of your SNAP benefits or a mistake in our application or interpretation of federal law.

If you want to continue receiving your benefits pending the outcome of the hearing, you will need to explain the basis for that request. If the hearing decision upholds

the Department's action, you will be required to pay back those benefits that you were not entitled to receive.

Again, this is a federally required, across-the-board reduction that applies to all SNAP/Food Stamp households. If you would like more information about this reduction, please contact Infoline at 2-1-1 or go to the DSS website.

THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS. PHONE 800-842-1509 or TDD/TTY 800-842-4524