



SNAP Changes Coming Soon

Dear SNAP Beneficiary:

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) is writing to you about important changes from the federal government that may affect your Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Some changes to SNAP will happen November 1 and some may impact you at a later time.

If your benefits are affected because of these changes, you will receive a notice at the time the change applies to you.

Prior to November 1, 2025, you may get a Benefit Decision Notice from DHS that shows changes to your SNAP benefits because of the new federal laws. Briefly, the notice may include information about:

- **Changes to your benefits due to your immigration status** – This provision narrows eligibility for SNAP based on different legal statuses such as U.S. citizenship, legal permanent residence, and other more restrictive statuses. The State is still awaiting federal guidelines
- **Changes to your benefits due to how utility expenses are calculated** - Households without an elderly or disabled member in the household are no longer eligible for a Standard Utility Allowance deduction based on a payment from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Households without an elderly or disabled member must provide documentation of payments for heating or cooling expenses to determine eligibility for a Standard Utility Allowance deduction
- **New work requirements, which could involve community engagement activities, may need to be met to receive SNAP** - The Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) work requirements are expanding, and some exceptions may no longer exist. Here are the changes:
 1. Expands the ABAWD work requirement age through 64 (from 54)
 2. Narrows the work requirement exemption for caregivers and parents by changing the definition of “dependent child” from under 18 years of age to under 14
 3. Loss of your exemption to the work requirements based on homelessness, veteran status, or being under age 24 when aged out of foster care at 18
 4. Other exemptions may be available

What You Should Do Now

Prior to receiving your notice, and while the State waits to receive full guidance from the federal government regarding these changes, please make sure that DHS has your most up-to-date information, including:

- Your contact information, including your current address and phone number
- Who lives in your household
- Your work or volunteer hours
- Any disability or health conditions
- School, training, or education program participation

Here's how to update your information:

- By computer or smartphone, visit healthyrhode.ri.gov or download the HealthyRhode mobile app and log into your customer portal account
- Call 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347) or TTY 1-800-745-5555 (for hearing impaired) to report changes
- Drop off documents in any of our secure drop boxes at a DHS office or bring to a document scanning center. For a full list of locations, please visit dhs.ri.gov/offices

More Information

Other federal changes may impact health coverage through Rhode Island Medicaid or HealthSource RI. To stay informed, please visit the following websites:

- SNAP: staycovered.ri.gov/SNAP-updates
- Department of Human Services: DHS.ri.gov
- Medicaid: staycovered.ri.gov
- HealthSource RI: healthsourceri.com/stayconnected

Also consider signing up for DHS Alerts – these alerts provide enrolled customers with timely notifications via text messaging. DHS Alerts give customers another tool to help ensure continuity of benefits when forms or other materials are due. Sign up for DHS alerts the next time you visit an office, over the phone, on the Customer Portal, (healthyrhode.ri.gov) or through the mobile app.

Thank you for your attention to this important information.

The RIDHS SNAP Administration Team