



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Changes to SNAP Payments Begin November. 1

RICHMOND, Va. (Oct. 24, 2013) – Beginning on November 1, 2013, recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, will see a decrease in the amount of their monthly benefits and every month thereafter.

This decrease is happening because funds from the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#), commonly known as the Stimulus Package, are no longer available.

“In November, the April 2009 increase in SNAP benefits resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will expire based on federal legislation that allowed the provision to sunset,” explained director of Benefit Programs, Thomas Steinhauser.

Benefits will return to the level they would have been, had the Stimulus Package not been passed. Most households will see about a 5.4 percent decrease in their SNAP allotments.

“For a family of four receiving the maximum benefit, the cut will be \$36 per month. For many households this cut will be significant,” said Steinhauser.

The decrease in the amount of benefits will depend on many variables: income, household size, and expenses.

The following table will give you an idea of what the reduction might be **if your household has no income**.

A household of 1	MAY GET	\$11 Less
A household of 2		\$20 Less
A household of 3		\$29 Less
A household of 4		\$36 Less
A household of 5		\$43 Less
A household of 6		\$52 Less
A household of 7		\$57 Less
A household of 8		\$65 Less

Editor's Note:

- For more information about this change, SNAP clients can visit the Virginia Department of Social Services web site at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap.cgi> and click on Benefit Changes –October/November 2013 or call the Virginia Department of Social Services at 1-800-552-3431.
- For food assistance, SNAP clients can dial 2-1-1 VIRGINIA.