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Human Services Department announces end of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program extra benefits

516,537 New Mexicans will go back to receiving regular SNAP benefits starting in March 2023

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Human Services Department today announced the official end of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotments. SNAP customers will receive their regular benefit amount starting in March 2023.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the federal government approved increased payments known as SNAP emergency allotments to those receiving SNAP food assistance. Beginning in March 2023, all SNAP households nationally, including those in New Mexico, will return to their regular benefit amount.

"Now more than ever, we encourage the public to support food banks, nonprofits, faith-based partners and others who have been serving the community non-stop even with the emergency allotments in place — HSD is working with these partners to continue helping families in need across the state," said **Kari Armijo**, Interim Acting Secretary for the New Mexico Human Services Department.

During the SNAP emergency allotments, a family of three received \$740 each month in SNAP benefits, which was the maximum benefit for a family of three. In March, with the end of extra SNAP benefits, a family of three will go back to receiving the average amount of \$335 per month in regular benefits.

A one-person household, who does not earn an income, received \$376 each month in SNAP benefits, which is the maximum benefit for one person. With the end of the emergency allotments, this household will now receive \$281 in monthly benefits.

HSD has mailed letters to all SNAP customers notifying them about the end of extra SNAP benefits. The letter also provides families their exact regular benefit amount starting in March 2023 and the date of the month their benefits will be deposited into their EBT cards. The department is also conducting text outreach to SNAP customers to notify them of the upcoming changes.

We talk, interpret and smile in all languages. We provide written information to our customers in both English and Spanish and interpretation services are available in 58 languages through our provider, <u>CTS Language Link</u>. For our hearing, and speech impaired customers, we utilize <u>Relay New Mexico</u>, a free 24-hour service that ensures equal communication access via the telephone to individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled.

The Human Services Department provides services and benefits to 1,077,502 New Mexicans through several programs including: the Medicaid Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Support Program, and several Behavioral Health Services.