

# SNAP Emergency Allotments End in February



Independent Fiscal Office | Research Brief | January 2023

*This research brief is the first in a series that examines the end or phase-out of various programs tied to the federal public health emergency that will impact the state economy.*

As part of the omnibus appropriations bill passed December 2022, the final month of SNAP emergency allotments is February 2023. Under emergency allotments (started April 2020), all households that qualify for SNAP received an extra benefit (1) in the amount needed to bring them up to the maximum benefit for their household size or (2) \$95 per month, whichever is greater. The latest published SNAP data for October 2022 show that 1.88 million residents received an average monthly benefit of \$279 per person, compared to \$120 per person for October 2019. The IFO projects that the end of emergency allotments will reduce the per person monthly benefit by roughly \$100, to \$175. Annual SNAP benefits are estimated at \$5.4 billion for CY 2022 and \$4.3 billion for CY 2023 (see table, includes emergency allotments for two months).

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>SNAP Benefits (\$ billions)</b>	\$2.57	\$2.49	\$3.57	\$5.43	\$5.40	\$4.30
Number Persons (000s)	1,819	1,628	1,795	1,766	1,846	1,878
Monthly Benefit per Person	\$118	\$128	\$166	\$256	\$244	\$191
<b>P-EBT Benefits (\$ billions)</b>	--	--	\$0.37	\$1.60	\$0.60	\$0.16
Number Summer Benefit (000s)	--	--	--	1,225	1,378	1,350
Summer Benefit per Child	--	--	--	\$375	\$391	\$120
<b>Total Benefits (\$ billions)</b>	<b>\$2.57</b>	<b>\$2.49</b>	<b>\$3.94</b>	<b>\$7.02</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>	<b>\$4.46</b>

Note: Calendar years. CY 2022 is an estimate by IFO based on data through October. CY 2023 is a projection and includes two months of emergency allotments. Assumes summer benefit paid in CY 2023. Number receiving summer benefits includes school-age and childcare age children and is an estimate based on published data.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A separate but related program is the Pandemic Emergency Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) which started in Spring 2020. The program was devised to provide benefits to children (including children age 0 to 5) who would normally receive free or reduced meals at schools, but due to closures, mitigation efforts or illness, were not able to receive those meals for at least a part of a month. For the most recent school year, schools report to the Department of Human Services if they were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a month. If a school meets the criteria (or a child could not attend due to COVID-related reasons), then the child qualifies for benefits. For the 2020-21 school year, the reimbursement was \$7.10 per day for a maximum of 20 days or \$142 per month.

The P-EBT program also pays summer benefits to cover meals for June to August. For summer 2021, the benefit was \$375 per child (regardless of age). For summer 2022, it was \$391 per child, but payments were delayed to October 2022 (and a small portion in November). For summer 2022, total summer benefits were \$471 million across 1.38 million children. The summer benefits are automatically granted to children in households that receive regular and emergency SNAP benefits so that per person benefits for summer months are notably higher than other months. The table assumes that summer 2023 benefits will be paid at \$120 per child.