



For Immediate Release

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Press Contact

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Temporary Increase in SNAP Maximum Allotments Due to COVID-19 and Automatic 6-Month Extension of the Certification Period for SNAP and Cash Assistance Households

(US VIRGIN ISLANDS) – The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (DHS) was alerted that the USVI has received a temporary increase to the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Allotments due to COVID-19.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, signed by President Donald J. Trump on December 27, 2020, increases Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits by raising maximum allotments to 115 percent of the June 2020 value of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). **The legislation requires that the increased maximum allotments take effect beginning on January 1, 2021 and remain for each subsequent month through June 30, 2021.**

For current USVI SNAP recipients, the temporary increased maximum allotments beginning on January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 are as follows:

Maximum SNAP Allotments for U.S. Virgin Islands	
Household Size:	Increased Amount:
1	\$301
2	\$553
3	\$792
4	\$1,005
5	\$1,194
6	\$1,433
7	\$1,584
8	\$1,810
<i>Each additional person</i>	\$226

On July 1, 2021, State agencies will revert to the previous benefit allotments.



Automatic 6-Month Extension of the Certification Period

The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (DHS) is also notifying on-going Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) & Cash Assistance (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD) Households, due to recertify (over the next six months, including December 2020) that their **certification period has been extended for six (6) months, January 1 to June 30, 2021**. That means on January 1, 2021 SNAP and/or CASH benefits will be automatically uploaded to their cards.

All current SNAP or CASH recipients are asked to disregard any Notice of Expiration you may have received in the mail for an appointment this month. *Clients do not need to call or visit the SNAP Offices. However, all clients should look out for a letter in the mail informing them of their next recertification appointment.*

The SNAP offices can be reached at: (340) 772-7100 in the St. Croix district or (340) 774-2399 in the St. Thomas/St. John district.

Updated Contact Information Critical

Though this automatic six-month extension has been granted, if the SNAP offices do not have your current and accurate mailing and phone contact information, you may experience a disruption in benefits. To ensure that there is no disruption in the receipt of your benefits, please note:

1. The *DHS SNAP offices are receiving a high volume of “undeliverable” mail packets. Please contact the Certification offices at the phone numbers or emails below to ensure that they have the correct (per the post office) mailing address and phone number. DHS has no way of contacting clients without accurate and working phone numbers, mailing addresses and email addresses.*
2. Email or call the Certification offices and provide the name of the head of household or case number and a working phone number so that we may contact you if you have been unable to reach a staff person.

Human Services - DFA 4201 Mars Hill, Frederiksted, St. Croix 00840 Phone No: (340) 772-7100 Fax: (340) 772-9591 Email: certoffice.stx@dhs.vi.gov	Human Services - DFA 1303 Hospital Ground, Ste 1, St. Thomas 00802 Phone No: (340) 774-2399 or (340) 774-0930 Fax No: (340) 777-5449 Email: certoffice.stt@dhs.vi.gov	Human Services - Multi-Purpose Building Cruz Bay, St. John Phone: (340) 776-6334 or (340) 776-6335 or (340) 774-0930 Email: certoffice.stt@dhs.vi.gov
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The Department of Human Services (VIDHS) exists to provide social services to members in our community with diverse needs. In times of national uncertainty and hardship we act as a safety-



net and exist to inspire hope and empower change through non-judgmental, quality delivery of needed services and resources. Please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi for more information.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit our website, covid19usvi.com, or text COVID19USVI to 888777. To report a suspected COVID-19 case, call (340) 712-6299 or (340) 776-1519.

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