



For Immediate Release

April 9, 2020

Press Contact

Michelle Francis

(340) 718-2980

Michelle.Francis@dhs.vi.gov

Many USVI SNAP Recipients to Receive Supplemental Allotments Amid Coronavirus Crisis

(US VIRGIN ISLANDS) - The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (DHS) announces that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will issue additional SNAP benefits to current (SNAP) recipients during the months of April and May. Households *not already receiving the maximum benefits* will receive a **supplemental allotment** to bring the amount of benefits received up to the maximum allotment for a household of that size. This action is part of the provisions set forth by the Families First Coronavirus Responses Act of 2020.

Existing SNAP households that do not currently receive the maximum allotment per household size will receive a supplemental allotment in April and May. Please note the maximum allotment per household size listed below:

- 1: \$249
- 2: \$457
- 3: \$654
- 4: \$831
- 5: \$987
- 6: \$1184
- 7: \$1,309
- 8: \$1,496
- Each additional person: \$187

Note: If you already receive the maximum allotment you will not receive a supplemental allotment.

The Supplemental Allotment for April will automatically load to recipients' SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards on Saturday, April 11, 2020.

The Supplemental Allotment for May will automatically load to recipients' SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards on Saturday, May 16, 2020.



The Department of Human Services is working around the clock with our federal partners to ensure that residents of the territory have access to all available provisions during this time of COVID19 Pandemic crisis. Our staff are working diligently to ensure that DHS is on the front-line advocating for our vulnerable populations and ensure that all Virgin Islanders have access to much needed food, cash, childcare and energy crisis assistance,” said DHS Kimberley Commissioner Causey-Gomez.

More than 20,000 individuals currently receive SNAP benefits within the Territory. Due to the negative effects of COVID19, that number has increased and is expected to continue to increase in the coming weeks. The Department encourages households with reduced or terminated income to apply for benefits or report changes to their existing SNAP case.

Please visit the DHS website, www.dhs.gov.vi, under the Division of Family Assistance tab for applications and more information. Applications are also available in specific grocery stores on all three islands, or at the DHS offices located on each island. Completed applications may be mailed, emailed, faxed or dropped off to drop boxes located at each local office below:

<p>Human Services - DFA 4201 Mars Hill, Frederiksted, St. Croix 00840 Phone No: (340) 772-7200 Fax: (340) 772-9591 Email: certoffice.stx@dhs.vi.gov</p>	<p>Human Services - DFA 1303 Hospital Ground, Ste 1, St. Thomas 00802 Phone No: (340) 774-0930 & (340) 774-2399 Fax No.: (340) 777-5449 Email: certoffice.stt@dhs.vi.gov</p>	<p>Human Services - Multi-Purpose Building Cruz Bay, St. John Phone: (340) 776-6334 or (340) 776-6335 Email: certoffice.stt@dhs.vi.gov</p>
--	---	---

Please note the VI has *not been authorized to operate a Disaster SNAP (NO D-SNAP)*. **However, people who are unemployed or have reduced income as a result of COVID 19 can apply for the regular SNAP program.**

For more information, please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi or on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/usvidhs>) at US Virgin Islands Department of Human Services. Feel free to also email: certoffice.stx@dhs.vi.gov on St. Croix or certoffice.stt@dhs.vi.gov on St. Thomas/St. John. Please ensure a working telephone number is on the application. Telephone interviews will be scheduled.

The SNAP offices can be reached at: (340) 772-7100 on St. Croix or (340) 774-2399 or (340) 774-0930 on St. Thomas/St. John.

For more information on Covid19, the new strain of coronavirus, please visit the USVI Department of Health's website, www.doh.vi.gov/coronavirus or text COVID19USVI to 888777.



#COVID19USVI

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.

-END-