

Important Changes to Benefit Programs

Federal and state benefit programs that provided temporary eligibility and enrollment procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic will begin returning to regular operations over the coming months. These programs will have specific requirements and unique timeframes for returning to pre-pandemic services.

Please use the information below to find details concerning these important updates.

 VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	SNAP Emergency Allotments	SNAP for College Students	Medical Assistance	TANF	P-EBT
WHAT <i>does this program do?</i>	The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides monthly food benefits to eligible households and individuals. SNAP emergency allotments were a temporary federal benefit provided to active SNAP households.	The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for college students provides monthly benefits to eligible college students. Eligibility was temporarily expanded to allow greater participation by students enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education.	The Medicaid and Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS) programs provide medical and dental health care coverage to eligible children, adults and families. Participants were provided continuous coverage during the previous period and were not required to submit for annual renewal of benefits.	The Temporary Cash Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides monthly cash payments to eligible households. TANF families were temporarily provided benefits beyond the usual 24- and 60-month limits. Requirements for the Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) program were also waived.	The Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program provides free meals to school eligible aged children at participating schools. This program supplemented school meals that students missed while schools were closed or placed on part-time schedules due to COVID-19 restrictions.
WHY <i>is this changing?</i>	Passing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023	The ending of the federal Public Health Emergency	Passing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023	The end of the temporary program allowances was based on planned administrative decisions.	The ending of the federal Public Health Emergency
WHEN <i>will changes occur?</i>	February 16, 2023	June 10, 2023	April 1, 2023	January 1, 2023	May 11, 2023
WHERE <i>can I learn more?</i>	dss.virginia.gov/SNAP	dss.virginia.gov/SNAPcollege	coverva.org/en/phe-planning	dss.virginia.gov/TANF	pebtva.com
VDSS Assistance	dss.virginia.gov/benefitchanges				



For program eligibility or to apply for assistance online, visit **CommonHelp**.
 For phone assistance, contact the Enterprise Call Center at (855) 635-4370.
 For deaf or hard-of-hearing callers, dial 711 to reach the Enterprise Call Center using Virginia Relay.