

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Title of Rule: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (218-RICR-20-00-1)

Rule Identifier: 218-RICR-20-00-1

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: 10/30/2019

End of Public Comment: 11/29/2019

Authority for this Rulemaking:

RIGL 40-6-8

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

Updated Federally mandated increases to the SNAP allotments, the standard deduction, the homeless shelter expense, the excess shelter deduction, the standard utility allowance, the unearned income threshold and the minimum monthly benefit.1.2.2 A(1)(b) - Added and identified a fourth category to the Special Household definition.1.4.13 A(9) - Added language that clarified the Student Eligibility Requirement to better align with Federal policy.§§ 1.5.2, 1.5.3, § 1.5.5, and § 1.13 - Added Substantial Lottery and Gambling Winnings language per Federal policy pertaining to income, excluded income, and resources.1.5.7 - Clarified language regarding medical expense deductions.1.9 - Added an additional category to Intentional Program Violations per Federal regulation.1.11.4 - Updated transportation allowance amount and removed dependent care cost limit.1.15.1(D) (4)(a) - removed the \$1,\$3,\$5 allotment reference per Federal regulation.1.16 - Added Fraud referral procedure, struck duplicative EBT language.

Additional Information and Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until November 29, 2019 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Karen Vartebedian

Department of Human Services

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In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by an agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

Updates that allow for inflation will increase allowable deduction amounts as well as income eligibility standards resulting in increased benefits to SNAP participants. In addition, Federal regulations have been defined so SNAP requirements are clearly understood lessening confusion for applicants and recipients.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above.