

Public Assistance & Employment Services Division Updates

January 2023



FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
FAMILY SERVICES



The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 has significant changes to the Medicaid and SNAP programs.

Medicaid Update

- Medicaid renewals not completed between March 2020 and February 2023 will be completed within the next 14 months.
- Medicaid renewals will begin to be mailed to some households March 2023.
- Medicaid eligibility is returning to normal April 1st.
- Reductions and terminations in coverage will resume when applicable.

SNAP Update

- Prior to the pandemic, SNAP allotments were based on household size, income, and some allowable expenses.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the SNAP Program has been providing all SNAP households a supplement on the 16th of the month that increases their benefit to the maximum allotment for their SNAP household size.
- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 passed by Congress ends emergency allotments nationwide February 2023.
- March 2023, all SNAP households' benefits will return to normal amounts, without the added supplement.
- Social Security recipients receive an increase to that benefit each January. This increase to their Social Security may result in a bigger decrease to their SNAP allotment in March.

Communications Plan

- The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) plans to begin mailing SNAP households a letter notifying them of the end to the Emergency Allotment as early as next week. The letter will be available in 5 languages.
- VDSS will be standing up a Call Center for households with questions.
- Fairfax County will be conducting a mailing alerting households of the change in Emergency Allotments.
- Updates to the public facing VDSS website and our Fairfax County pages alerting households of the change and will include local and state food resources. We are creating a page for Medicaid as well.
- Press releases and information shared via social media in coordination with state communications.
- Continued information sharing with internal and external partners, including information sessions.

