

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Impacts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Prepared for the Governor's Office and the AARA Recovery Team
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Executive Summary

The ARRA has made changes to SNAP to assist individuals and families who are struggling in the current economy. Client benefits will increase effective April 1, 2009 as reflected in the following table:

Household size	Current max SNAP Benefit	New max SNAP Benefit	Increase in benefit
1	176	200	24
2	323	367	44
3	463	526	63
4	588	668	80
5	698	793	95
6	838	952	114
7	936	1052	116
8	1058	1202	144
9	1190	1352	162
10	1322	1502	180

According to the ARRA, these increases will be sustained beyond the end of the ARRA. These increases will give clients more assistance with food which allows them to spend money elsewhere.

In addition, the State could have access to additional SNAP administrative dollars up to approximately \$3.3 million. There is no maintenance of effort (MOE) provision. This will allow the state to address potential increases in administrative costs if caseloads increase.

The ARRA also lifts the limitation on the number of months an *Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents* (ABAWD) can receive SNAP benefits during the life of the ARRA. Prior to the ARRA, an ABAWD could only receive benefits for 3 months during a 36 month period unless they were working 80 hours per month or participating in Workforce Investment Act or the Trade Adjustment Assistance 80 hours per month. Under the Act, they will be able to receive benefits during the entire life of the Act (through September 30, 2010). They will still be required to participate and comply with the State's work program.

Policy and Implementation Issues

Aside from internal computer system and policy changes, there are no major policy impacts to these provisions of the Act. Because benefit levels will be maintained, clients will not see a negative impact.

Funding Issues

SNAP funds are available to the State as a reimbursement. The funds provide the State with more spending authority. Funds for client benefits are paid directly from the USDA to the clients via a contractor.