

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT PAPER FOOD STAMP COUPONS

Can I use paper food stamps if I have them?

Yes, but only for a short time longer. A new law means that food stamp coupons cannot be used to buy food after **June 17, 2009**. After that, the coupons will be worthless. Only your EBT card will be accepted.

If I use a paper coupon, can I get change?

You can get change of up to 99 cents. You cannot get change when you use your EBT card. You will not get more coupons as change. Here is an example:

- Your food costs \$1.56.
- You pay with two \$1 paper coupons.
- You will get 44 cents change.

What happens if my change is more than 99 cents?

The store can ask you to buy more food so the total is closer to the amount of coupons you have. If you don't want to, the store may refuse to sell the food. Here is an example:

- Your food costs \$3.
- You pay with a \$5 paper coupon.
- The store asks you to buy more food so that your cost is at least \$4.01.
- You will get change back.

Are there other rules about using coupons?

Stores are not allowed to take \$5 and \$10 coupons that are not in the book when you buy your food. If you have purple \$5 and green \$10 coupons, you must show the store the book cover. The cover must have the same serial number as the coupons.

What should I do if I have a question?

Visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/> or call your local office.



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Your SNAP Benefits Are Going Up!

Why are my benefits going up?

- There is a new law called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. You might have heard it called the **stimulus package**.
- Because of the law, you get more Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. **SNAP is the new name for the Food Stamp Program**. SNAP may have a different name where you live.

How can I use the extra benefits?

- Use your extra benefits to **buy food** at your grocery store.
- In some places, SNAP also offers **nutrition education** to help you and your family learn to choose healthy food on a budget and be more active.

How do I get the extra benefits?

- You get the extra benefits starting **April 2009**.
- The extra benefits will be **added automatically** to your EBT card. You do not have to do anything.

How much extra do I get?

- Some households with 1 or 2 people who get the minimum benefit of \$14 a month may get \$16 a month starting in April. Others may get more.
- **Look at the table below** to see how much more you may get each month.
- For example: If there are 3 people in your household and right now you get \$250 each month. In April, you will get \$313 each month. ($\$250 + \$63 = \313)

People in Household	Increase
1	+ \$24
2	+ \$44
3	+ \$63
4	+ \$80
5	+ \$95
6	+ \$114
7	+ \$126
8	+ \$144
Each extra person	+ \$18

Note: This chart shows the additional amount most households in the lower 48 States and the District of Columbia will receive. Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and the Virgin Islands have different tables.



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