



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

**Department of  
Health and Social Services**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

**Anchorage**

3601 C Street, Suite 902  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5923  
Main: 907.269.7800  
Fax: 907.269.0060

**Juneau**

P.O. Box 110601  
350 Main Street, Suite 404  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0601  
Main: 907.465.3030  
Fax: 907.465.3068

April 1, 2021

The Honorable Click Bishop  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
Alaska State Capitol Room  
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Bert Stedman  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
Alaska State Capitol Room  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Bishop and Senator Stedman:

This letter is a follow-up to the correspondence sent to the Senate Finance Committee on March 30, with additional and requested information related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Emergency Allocation (EA) benefits.

SNAP emergency allotment (EA) supplements are not based on individuals, therefore the data relating to individuals was derived by dividing the average number of recipients by the average EA amounts issued.

The following examples of the way EAs are calculated may provide additional context:

- The maximum SNAP benefit for a 4-person household living in an urban area is \$936, and one household normally qualifies for a \$929 monthly benefit: their EA supplement is \$7 ( $936 - 929 = 7$ ).
- The maximum SNAP benefit for a 14-person household living in a Rural II area is \$4,714, and one household normally qualifies for \$1,776 monthly benefit: their EA supplement is \$2,938 ( $2938 - 1776 = 2938$ ).

Providing low, medium, high calculations can be problematic because the program has a wide range of maximum benefit amounts. However, following are additional data from February 2021 that show the variability in EAs.

**Rural 1 Region:**

Average HH size = 2  
Smallest HH size = 1  
Largest HH size = 12

Average EA amount = \$290  
Median EA amount = \$251  
Smallest EA amount = \$1

April 1, 2021

Largest EA amount = \$1,650

Percentage of households receiving EA = 53%

**Rural 2 Region:**

Average HH size = 4

Smallest HH size = 1

Largest HH size = 17

Average EA amount = \$436

Median EA amount = \$331

Smallest EA amount = \$1

Largest EA amount = \$2,938

Percentage of households receiving EA = 58%

**Urban:**

Average HH size = 2

Smallest HH size = 1

Largest HH size = 15

Average EA amount = \$265.13

Median EA amount = \$241

Smallest EA amount = \$1

Largest EA amount = \$1,732

Percentage of households receiving EA = 56%

Please let me know if you have any additional questions related to this information.

Sincerely,



Adam Crum  
Commissioner

CC:           The Honorable David Wilson, Alaska State Senate  
              The Honorable Lyman Hoffman, Alaska State Senate  
              The Honorable Natasha von Imhof, Alaska State Senate  
              The Honorable Bill Wielechowski, Alaska State Senate  
              The Honorable Donny Olson, Alaska State Senate  
              Mr. Al Wall, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services  
              Mr. Miles Baker, Legislative Director, Office of Governor Mike Dunleavy