



Maryland Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger and promoting well-being

The ARRA Expiration

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Founded by the Food Research and Action Center in 2007 to:

- **Maximize participation** in all federal nutrition programs through a combination of removal of obstacles to participation, close work with social service agencies, and outreach.
- **Educate the public** and key stakeholders both to the stark reality of hunger's existence in Maryland and to solutions that are already at hand.
- **Improve public policies** to end hunger, reduce poverty, and promote nutrition.

Food Supplement Program (FSP)

- 3 names, 1 program
 - Formerly: Food Stamps
 - Nationally: SNAP
 - Maryland: FSP
- Puts healthy food within reach of low-income families and individuals
- Benefits delivered monthly via debit-like Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards
- During this webinar, we will refer to the program as FSP



FSP Participation in Maryland

- As of September 2013
 - 795,796 Marylanders participate in the program.
 - 170,016 households with children participate in the program.
 - 330,121 children under the age of 18 participate in the program.



American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)

- ARRA began in November 2009, to provide families relief during the economic turndown.
 - As a result of ARRA, FSP recipients saw an increase in their SNAP benefits.
 - Example: The maximum FSP benefit for a family of 4 was \$668 a month.
- On November 1st, 2013, all FSP recipients will see a decrease in their monthly benefit amounts.
 - As a result of the ARRA expiration, all FSP recipients will see a decrease in their benefits.
 - Example: The maximum FSP benefit for a family of 4 will be \$632 a month.

FSP Cuts

FSP cuts are dependent on household size:

Household Size	Maximum FSP Allotment as of 10/1	Maximum FSP Allotment as of 11/1	Difference
1 person	\$200	\$189	- \$11
2 people	\$367	\$347	- \$20
3 people	\$526	\$497	- \$29
4 people	\$668	\$632	- \$36
5 people	\$793	\$750	- \$43
6 people	\$952	\$900	- \$52
7 people	\$1,052	\$995	- \$65
8 people	\$1,202	\$1137	- \$65

FSP Cuts: Check Your Balance

- Check EBT Balance
- Call **1-800-332-6347** or visit **<https://www.ebt.acs-inc.com/ebtcard/mdebt/index.jsp>**

Resources: FSP Deductions

Medical Deductions

- Households with members 60+ or members receiving federal payment for disability are eligible for FSP medical deductions.
- Qualifying members may deduct medical expenses exceeding \$35 a month

Child and Adult Care Deductions

- Households with members who pay for childcare to enable them to receive work or training may deduct these expenses on their FSP application.

Resources: FSP Deductions

- ❑ **Pay for Care of an Elderly family member**
 - ❑ Households with members who pay for the care of an incapacitated adult when the care is necessary to enable another member of the household to work or participate in job training may deduct these expenses on their FSP application.

- ❑ **Pay for care of a family member with a disability**
 - ❑ Households with members who have had to take a temporary leave of absence from employment and plan to return to the same job may deduct these expenses on their FSP application.

- ❑ **Pay Child Support**
 - ❑ To be entitled for a deduction you must have a legal obligation to pay and be making payments; this does not include alimony.

Resources: FSP Deductions

- ❑ **Spend more than half your income on shelter costs**
 - ❑ Allow a deduction for shelter costs including rent, mortgage, taxes, heat and utilities, when the costs exceed 50% of the households income.

- ❑ **Are Experiencing Homelessness**
 - ❑ Individuals must currently reside in a public or private place not designed for sleeping or have had temporary accommodations with another individual for less than 90 days. The standard deduction is \$143.

- ❑ **Are Currently Working**

Resources: Federal Nutrition Programs

- School Meals
 - School Breakfast
 - School Lunch
- Out of School Meals and Snacks
 - Summer Meals
 - Afterschool Snacks
 - CACFP
- WIC



Resources: Stretch your dollars!

- Farmer's Markets
- Maryland 211
- Cooking Matters
- Maryland Resource Locator
- Meals on Wheels
- Moveable Feast
- SHARE
- Food Cooperative Program

What can you do?

- Make your voice heard:

Power concedes nothing without a demand!-Frederick Douglass

- Call or write a letter to your elected officials
- Vote
- Share your story with traditional media outlets
- Use social media
 - Spread awareness through Facebook, Twitter, or blog posts

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