

Staggered Issuance Communication to IDHW Partners

Sent via email on January 29, 2016

The Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) is preparing for a major change in how SNAP benefits (Food Stamps) are distributed. In 2014, the legislature passed a new law that requires DHW to issue benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) over the first 10 days of the month. This legislation was passed to help address challenges faced by grocers and food suppliers of long lines and inventory challenges on the first day of the month.

Currently, all families receive their SNAP benefits on the first day of the month. However, beginning July 1, 2016, SNAP benefits will be issued over the first 10 days of the month based on the last number of the birth year of the SNAP Cardholder. A person born in 1970, for example, would receive their benefits on the 10th day of the month. Someone born in 1981 would receive it on the first day. DHW will be notifying all households of their new issuance date before this change occurs.

We understand the impacts this change may have on participants, local organizations, and retailers so we've reached out to our community partners and the state's retailers and asked for their help in developing and implementing a smooth transition to a multi-day issuance system.

The first month of the change may be difficult for many of our families who are used to receiving SNAP benefits on the first day of the month. That is why we are working with partners who can provide food, commodities and meals to help families get through this transition. We also will be working with community partners and retailers to help us communicate the changes. If you are receiving this letter, you are likely impacted by this change. We encourage you to work with your own organization to determine the specific impacts you may face and prepare for this transition early.

We will continue to keep you updated on our activities as we roll out these changes to the SNAP program. The Department of Health and Welfare is grateful for your support as we ensure this change and transition occurs as effectively and positively as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out and contact Kristin Matthews, SNAP Program Manager at MattheK1@dhw.idaho.gov or 208-334-5553.