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Temporary Benefits for Several Virginia Assistance Programs Will End Soon

RICHMOND, VA (March 6, 2023) - Several medical, food and financial assistance flexibilities and programs administered by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) are set to expire due to recent changes in federal legislation. The programs, which have provided additional benefits and eligibility waivers to many Virginians, were offered on a temporary basis to help households cope with hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with the recent passing of the federal [Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023](#) announcing the end of the continuous coverage requirement on March 31, 2023, and approaching end of the federal public health emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, states will soon return to normal processes, including:

- [Virginia Medicaid](#)
 - Continuous health coverage will end March 31, 2023, with disenrollment beginning no earlier than April 30, 2023. Virginia will return to normal enrollment processes, including redeterminations and processing reductions/disenrollment of health coverage.
 - Medicaid renewals will continue over a 12-month period. Members should make sure their contact information is up to date to ensure receipt of important information during the transition back to normal operations.
- [Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer \(P-EBT\)](#)
 - Final P-EBT benefits will be issued in August 2023, in accordance with the end of the federal public health emergency.
- [Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program \(SNAP\) for College Students](#)
 - Expanded eligibility requirements will end June 10, 2023, in accordance with the end of the federal public health emergency. Issuances occur on the 1st, 4th, and 7th of the month.

Additionally, temporary benefits for the following programs have recently ended:

- [Temporary Cash Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#)
 - The period of continuous coverage ended, and Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) requirements resumed January 1, 2023.
- [Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program \(SNAP\) Emergency Allotments](#)

- Emergency Allotments that raised eligible SNAP households' maximum benefit ended February 16, 2023. Households will receive benefits without the additional supplement beginning March 2023. Issuances occur on the 1st, 4th, and 7th of the month.

VDSS and DMAS are working together to provide information and resources to prepare Virginia families for the upcoming program changes. Along with a dedicated unit of trained staff to support customers during this program transition, VDSS and DMAS have also partnered with health plan providers, community organizations, local schools, institutions of higher learning, and stakeholders to ensure eligible Virginians have access to all available resources, receive assistance in navigating systems, and are able to retain access to food assistance and quality health care coverage.

“We are proud to have offered Virginians enhanced monthly benefits and expanded access to benefit programs for as long as federal law allowed,” said VDSS Commissioner Dr. Danny Avula. “Together, with assistance from our partners at DMAS, we are prepared to continue to help create opportunities for Virginia’s families to work towards self-sufficiency and overall well-being.”

“DMAS has been preparing for this return to normal process for the past two years, and we are committed to ensuring that our members continue to receive the health coverage that they deserve,” said Cheryl Roberts, DMAS Director. “In partnership with our colleagues at VDSS, we are ready to help our members find the right health coverage – whether through Medicaid, the federal marketplace, or private health insurance – so that Virginians stay covered and stay healthy.”

Households currently receiving assistance through any of the affected programs are strongly encouraged to verify their contact information is up to date to ensure prompt delivery of important notices and communications related to the upcoming changes. Household information, including mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses can be verified or updated in the following ways:

[Commonhelp \(Commonhelp.virginia.gov\)](https://www.commonhelp.virginia.gov)

For assistance with SNAP, SNAP for College Students, Medicaid, TANF, and P-EBT.

[Cover Virginia \(CoverVA.org\)](https://www.coverva.org) or call 1-855-242-8282 (TTY: 1-888-221-1590)


For assistance with Medicaid or FAMIS.

[Local Department of Social Services \(LDSS\)](#) are prepared to assist members with updating their contact information and provide information and resources regarding other Virginia programs.

Important Changes to Benefit Programs

Federal and state benefit programs that provided temporary eligibility and enrollment procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic will begin returning to regular operations over the coming months. These programs will have specific requirements and unique timeframes for returning to pre-pandemic services.

Please use the information below to find details concerning these important updates.

 VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	SNAP Emergency Allotments	SNAP for College Students	Medical Assistance	TANF	P-EBT
WHAT <i>does this program do?</i>	The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides monthly food benefits to eligible households and individuals. SNAP emergency allotments were a temporary federal benefit provided to active SNAP households.	The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for college students provides monthly benefits to eligible college students. Eligibility was temporarily expanded to allow greater participation by students enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education.	The Medicaid and Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS) programs provide medical and dental health care coverage to eligible children, adults and families. Participants were provided continuous coverage during the previous period and were not required to submit for annual renewal of benefits.	The Temporary Cash Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides monthly cash payments to eligible households. TANF families were temporarily provided benefits beyond the usual 24- and 60-month limits. Requirements for the Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) program were also waived.	The Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program provides free meals to school eligible aged children at participating schools. This program supplemented school meals that students missed while schools were closed or placed on part-time schedules due to COVID-19 restrictions.
WHY <i>is this changing?</i>	Passing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023	The ending of the federal Public Health Emergency	Passing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023	The end of the temporary program allowances was based on planned administrative decisions.	The ending of the federal Public Health Emergency
WHEN <i>will changes occur?</i>	February 16, 2023	June 10, 2023	April 1, 2023	January 1, 2023	May 11, 2023
WHERE <i>can I learn more?</i>	dss.virginia.gov/SNAP	dss.virginia.gov/SNAPcollege	coverva.org/en/phe-planning	dss.virginia.gov/TANF	pebtva.com
VDSS Assistance	dss.virginia.gov/benefitchanges				



For program eligibility or to apply for assistance online, visit [CommonHelp](#).
 For phone assistance, contact the Enterprise Call Center at (855) 635-4370.
 For deaf or hard-of-hearing (TTY/TTD) assistance, contact (800) 552-7917 or (866) 246-9300.

[VDSS Important Changes to Benefits Programs](#)

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About the Virginia Department of Social Services

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), one of the Commonwealth's largest government agencies, is comprised of approximately 2,000 state staff who proudly serve alongside more than 10,000 employees of 120 local departments of social services and community action agencies to deliver critical social services to Virginia's most vulnerable citizens. VDSS is committed to ensuring Virginians have access to the high-quality human services and resources needed to enhance their individual and collective well-being, and shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities. The agency provides a wide range of services and resources in the areas of food and energy assistance, foster care and adoption, child support, and abuse and neglect prevention, among others. For more information, visit <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/>.

About the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) plays an essential role in the Commonwealth's health care system by providing lifesaving medical coverage to one in four Virginians. For more information, visit www.dmas.virginia.gov.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE