



General Information Memorandum

ISD-GI 13-47

TO: ISD Employees
FROM:  Marilyn Martinez, Acting Director, Income Support Division
RE: Benefit Changes due to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for SNAP and NMCAP
DATE: October 4, 2013

Effective November 1, 2013, the New Mexico Combined Application Project (NMCAP) benefits will be reduced. This change will be effective for the November 2013 benefit month, unless any changes were reported that would allow for a change in benefit level amounts, or a change based on federal guidance.

NMCAP benefits will be reduced as follows:

- If your monthly shelter costs are equal to or less than \$315.00, the maximum benefit amount is \$33.00; and
- If your monthly shelter costs are greater than \$315.00, the maximum benefit amount is \$68.00.

Why are benefits changing?

The benefits are changing for two reasons. First, NMCAP benefits are changed due to annual changes in the federal income guidelines for SNAP and Cash Assistance and allowable deductions. Second, NMCAP benefits are changing because increased benefits provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) are going to expire on November 1, 2013.

NMCAP recipients may choose to apply for benefits under the NMCAP program or through regular SNAP. These households may be eligible for a higher benefit amount if they apply through the regular SNAP.

In accordance to regulation at 8.100.180.15 (C) NMAC, the notice of change will include the recipient's right to appeal; however, a hearing will not be available when automatic benefit adjustments are required by federal or state laws unless the specific, express basis for the hearing request is incorrect benefit computation. The Fair Hearings Bureau will still register as a hearing until it is determined the hearing is based on calculations or solely due to the mass change. Offices are encouraged to contact the recipient and determine the actual cause of the decrease.

Client will be mailed notices informing them of the upcoming changes regarding benefit reductions due to ARRA for both SNAP and NMCAP. Field office staff should expect an internal email notification of these notice texts, in anticipation of providing adequate responses to recipient questions and concerns.

If you have questions regarding this MR, please contact Kristen Ortiz via email at KristenR.Ortiz@state.nm.us or by phone at 505-827-7233.

RESCINDED