

NEW SECTION

WAC 388-437-0005 Changes to food assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(1) Starting March 2020, assistance units (AUs) eligible for either federal or state-funded food assistance, or both, will receive emergency allotments that bring the AU up to the maximum benefit for their household size.

(a) The amount is the maximum food assistance benefit allotment for your AU size under WAC 388-478-0060(1) less the amount received under WAC 388-450-0162(4)(b).

(b) Emergency allotments will continue each month until:

(i) The secretary for health and human services rescinds the public health emergency declaration that was issued on January 27, 2020, under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act;

(ii) The state-issued emergency or disaster declaration expires;
or

(iii) The food and nutrition service directs otherwise.

(c) Emergency allotments for state-funded food assistance will continue each month, contingent on the availability of state funds.

(2) If your certification period ends under WAC 388-416-0005 in April, May, or June 2020, your food benefits will be automatically extended by six months.

(3) If you are required to complete a mid-certification review under WAC 388-418-0011 in April, May, or June 2020, none will be required during this period.

(4) You are still required to report changes under WAC 388-418-0005.

(5) The department will review and act upon any new information we receive from you during this time.