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Department of Human Services Announces SNAP Benefits Increase Effective October 1, 2024

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS - The Department of Human Services (VIDHS) is excited to announce an increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**) benefits, effective **October 1, 2024**. This increase represents a critical step in ensuring that our most vulnerable residents have access to the resources they need to feed themselves and their families, especially as the cost of living continues to rise.

SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps, is a vital lifeline for low-income individuals and households across the Virgin Islands. The increase comes as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (**USDA**) annual adjustment to SNAP maximum allotments and income eligibility guidelines at the start of the federal fiscal year. While the exact amount of the increase will depend on household size, it marks a significant boost in support for the thousands of families relying on this program.

What Does This Mean for the Virgin Islands?

In a move to further support our local families, the Virgin Islands has opted to raise the gross income limit for Categorically Eligible (**CATEL**) SNAP households from 130% to an impressive 175% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (**FPIGs**). This increase opens the door to benefits for more families, expanding access to those who need it most. While the increase affects the gross income test, households are still required to report once their income exceeds 130% of the FPIGs, as the Virgin Islands remains under Simplified Reporting Requirements.

This adjustment is more than just numbers—it reflects our commitment to ensuring that no household goes hungry. By increasing the income threshold, we are making it easier for working families, who may have previously earned just above the old limit, to now qualify for assistance.

How to Learn More:

A chart is attached, detailing the new benefit amounts based on household size.

If you are a SNAP household and do not see an increase in your benefits, or if you have questions about your eligibility, we encourage you to contact your local SNAP office:

- **St. Croix:** (340) 772-7100, Ext. 7159 or 7166
- **St. Thomas:** (340) 774-0930, Ext. 4303 or (340) 774-2399
- **St. John:** (340) 776-6334

The Department of Human Services (VIDHS) exists to provide social services to members in our community with diverse needs. In times of national uncertainty and hardship we act as a safety-net and exist to inspire hope and empower change through non-judgmental, quality delivery of needed services and resources. Please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi or on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/usvidhs>).

The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory's people, infrastructure, and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government, and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov

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