



Department of Human Resources  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

## FIA INFORMATION MEMO

Control Number: #04-12

Effective Date: November 1, 2003

Issuance Date: October 20, 2003

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT  
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE: CHANGE IN ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT) ISSUANCE**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS**

### **SUMMARY**

Currently, the State issues food stamp regular monthly benefits over a five-day period according to alphabetical listing of the head of household's last name.

The large volume of food stamps issued over the five-day period creates hardships on retailers and on customers waiting in long lines. Because of this, the Maryland Retailer's Association met with DHR and requested a change in the EBT food stamps issuance schedule.

To be more responsive to the community, effective November 2003, we will issue food stamp benefits over a 10-day period. Regular food stamp issuance will begin on the sixth of the month and go through the 15<sup>th</sup>. The attached chart shows the new issuance dates. To minimize the impact on customers, issuance dates were arranged so that no household must wait more than five additional days for their November benefits. There is no change to the issuance of cash assistance.

Households will receive the attached notice to tell them of the change in issuance dates. Although no local department action is required with this change, we anticipate customer phone calls inquiring about benefit availability. Please advise any customers who call of the change and apologize for any inconvenience to them.

### **INQUIRIES**

Please direct policy questions to Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939 or Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333.

cc: FIA Management Staff      Constituent Services      DHR Help Desk

## TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE BENEFITS EBT Schedule

If the Last Name begins with:	A-F	G-P	Q-Z
<b>January</b>	January 2	January 3	January 4
<b>February</b>	February 2	February 3	February 4
<b>March</b>	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4
<b>April</b>	April 2	April 3	April 4
<b>May</b>	May 2	May 3	May 4
<b>June</b>	June 2	June 3	June 4
<b>July</b>	July 2	July 3	July 4
<b>August</b>	August 2	August 3	August 4
<b>September</b>	September 2	September 3	September 4
<b>October</b>	October 2	October 3	October 4
<b>November</b>	November 2	November 3	November 4
<b>December</b>	December 2	December 3	December 4

### Food Stamp EBT Schedule Effective 11/03

If the Last Name begins with:	A-B	C-D	E-F-G	H-I	J-K-L	M-N-O	P-Q-R	S	T-U-V	W-X-Y-Z
<b>January</b>	Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15
<b>February</b>	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 13	Feb 14	Feb 15
<b>March</b>	Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11	Mar 12	Mar 13	Mar 14	Mar 15
<b>April</b>	April 6	April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13	April 14	April 15
<b>May</b>	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15
<b>June</b>	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15
<b>July</b>	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11	July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15
<b>August</b>	Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10	Aug 11	Aug 12	Aug 13	Aug 14	Aug 15
<b>September</b>	Sept 6	Sept 7	Sept 8	Sept 9	Sept 10	Sept 11	Sept 12	Sept 13	Sept 14	Sept 15
<b>October</b>	Oct 6	Oct 7	Oct 8	Oct 9	Oct 10	Oct 11	Oct 12	Oct 13	Oct 14	Oct 15
<b>November</b>	Nov 6	Nov 7	Nov 8	Nov 9	Nov 10	Nov 11	Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14	Nov 15
<b>December</b>	Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 15

Effective November, 2003

## IMPORTANT FOOD STAMP NOTICE

The day your food stamps are put in your Independence Card account may change.

Beginning in November, food stamp benefits will be issued on a new 10-day schedule. No one's food stamps will be later than five days from the day of the month the food stamps were previously available. Here is the new schedule:

### **Food Stamp Schedule Effective November 2003**

<b>If your Last Name begins with:</b>	<b>A-B</b>	<b>C-D</b>	<b>E-F-G</b>	<b>H-I</b>	<b>J-K-L</b>	<b>M-N-O</b>	<b>P-Q-R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>T-U-V</b>	<b>W-X-Y-Z</b>
Your Food Stamps Are Available On This Day of the Month	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th

**Remember:** You do not have to use all of your food stamps on the day you receive them. You can use them to shop for food over the entire month.

You also do not have to use all of your food stamps in the month you get them. You can use them to buy food the next month.

To find out about buying and eating healthier, more nutritious foods you can check out the Food and Nutrition Service Internet website at [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov).

If you have any questions about the schedule for benefits in your Independence Card account, please call your case manager.