

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**Title of Rule:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (218-RICR-20-00-1)

**Rule Identifier:** 218-RICR-20-00-1

**Rulemaking Action:** Direct Final Amendment

**Important Dates:**

Date of Public Notice: March 27, 2025

End of Public Comment: April 26, 2025

**Rulemaking Authority:**

RIGL 40-6-8

R.I. Gen. Laws § § 42-35-2.10

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services is proposing an amendment to its SNAP regulations to align with federal guidelines and best practice by implementing a demonstration project to help feed families with school-aged children during the summer break. These changes under § 1.17 are being implemented as part of an update to the Electronic Benefit Transfer's new program called "Sun Bucks" as outlined within the Governor's 2025 Budget.

In addition, to ease case processing while reducing the burden on households, the DHS is utilizing an FNS waiver which reinstates the eligibility of households that have recently become ineligible without requiring the household to submit a new application or interview for benefits contingent upon meeting certain criteria outlined under § 1.3.1

The Agency does not expect this filing to be controversial and therefore, a public hearing will not be held.

**Additional Information and Public Comments:**

If no formal objection is received on or before April 26, 2025, the Department of Human Services will file the Amendment and the Final Rule will take effect on this date.

Objections should be addressed to:

Karen Vartebedian

Department of Human Services

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Hazard Bldg. #74

Cranston, RI 02920

[dhs.policyfeedback@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:dhs.policyfeedback@dhs.ri.gov)

**Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:**

The implementation of the Summer EBT program will result in a reduction of food insecurity by seamlessly integrating with existing SNAP, RIW, and Medicaid programs for broad coverage to successfully deliver critical summer food assistance to school-aged children during the summer break. In addition, the Reinstatement Waiver allows Implementation of agency measures through an FNS waiver for effective and efficient program management.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.