

# Department of Human Services 311 West Saratoga Street Baltimore MD 21201

## FIA INFORMATION MEMO

**Effective Date: Immediately** 

Issuance Date: October 4, 2023

**Control Number: 24-19** 

TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT FAMILY** 

**INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS** 

FROM: AUGUSTIN NTABAGANYIMANA, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Augusti

RE: RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM (RMP)

PROGRAM IMPACTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

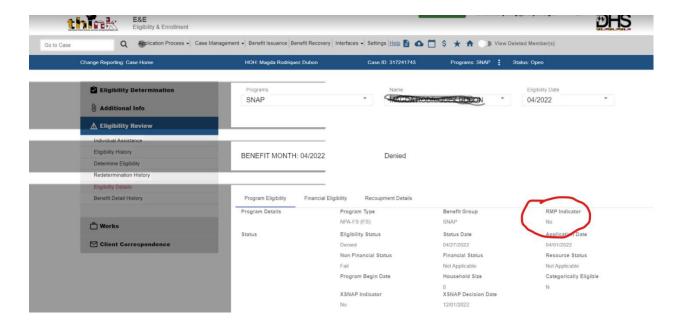
## **SUMMARY**

Senate Bill 752 passed in the Maryland General Assessment during the 2019 legislative session-formally creating the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP). RMP is a State Option under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Family Investment Administration (FIA) has exercised the option allowing selected households to purchase prepared meals using the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card associated with their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) case.

- Families experiencing homelessness.
- Elderly (age 60 and older) and their spouse
- Individuals with disabilities and their spouse

SNAP recipients cannot apply for RMP. Individuals meeting the above criteria will automatically receive a letter notifying them of their eligibility. Some exceptions apply to individuals meeting the program criteria based on the household composition.

The E&E System will automatically update the Eligibility Results screen with a "Y" in the RMP field when an individual is eligible for RMP as displayed in the screenshot below.



Restaurants participating in the program are required to meet certain criteria to be eligible for the program, including having an EBT processor in place for electronically identifying eligible customers at the point-of-sale. Restaurants interested in participating in RMP must apply, be vetted, and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), by submitting an FNS-252 application and a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Family Investment Administration in order to be eligible for RMP.

To learn more about RMP please visit <a href="https://dhs.maryland.gov/restaurant-meals-program/">https://dhs.maryland.gov/restaurant-meals-program/</a>.

#### FINDING PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

RMP is still in its early stages of development. As new restaurants are authorized to participate in the program, they will be added to the agency website under the RMP page. Please visit the webpage above to see the list of approved restaurants.

## **RESOURCES:**

SNAP Manual Section 109.7

#### **INQUIRIES**

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the <u>FIA Policy Information Request</u> Form found on Knowledge Base or via email at <u>fia.policy@maryland.gov</u> for Montgomery County only. For systems questions, please email <u>fia.bsdm@maryland.gov</u>.

cc DHS Executive Staff
FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHS Help Desk
Office of Administrative Hearings