

## When Can I Get my New or Renewed Food Assistance Benefits?

A new 20-day issuance schedule is now in place for new food assistance cases and for those that experience a 1-day break in eligibility. If you're an existing client and your case has not closed since Feb. 28, 2014, you will stay on the old 10-day schedule.

This change is in response to requests from stakeholders and the grocers association. Issuing over a longer period of time allows grocers to staff their stores more consistently through the month and provides greater food variety for consumers.

The issuance date is based on the last digit of your case number. This affects the date you can expect your card to be loaded after you receive your initial benefits. The 20-day issuance table looks like this:

Last Digit of Case Number	Issuance Date of Month Following Initial Benefits
0	2nd
1	4th
2	6th
3	8th
4	10th
5	12th
6	14th
7	16th
8	18th
9	20th

These dates apply when a "new assistance group" is created when:

- An individual that is not in our computer system applies for food assistance benefits
- Someone moves out of a case and applies for food assistance with another case as an independent assistance group
- Someone moves out of a case and applies for food assistance with their own case
- An individual seeks to be included in his or her own food assistance group in the same case
- An assistance group moves from one county to another, requiring a new application

These new issuance dates also apply when a one-day break in eligibility happens. This can happen when an assistance group has failed to take a required action:

- Failing to recertify by the given deadline
- Failing to return verifications, an interim report, etc. by the given deadline

If you have any questions, please call **225-4148**.