

COVID-19 SNAP (Food Stamps) Updates

Updated 04.01.2021



The SNAP (food stamps) program helps people with low income buy food. People who have SNAP benefits get a LINK Card, which they can use like a debit card, but they can only use it to buy groceries.

Who can get SNAP?

U.S. Citizens, most Legal Permanent Residents, and some other immigrants can get SNAP if their gross household income is under 165% of the federal poverty line (see chart below). Gross income is how much money you make before taxes and other deductions are taken out of your paycheck. **SNAP work requirements are not currently in effect.**

How much could I get in SNAP benefits?

Usually it depends on your family size, your income, and your expenses. But because of the COVID-19 pandemic, **all households who have been approved for SNAP are getting the maximum SNAP amount for their family size plus 15% in extra COVID-19 relief.**

- For example, someone who usually gets the minimum \$16 in monthly SNAP will get \$234 during the pandemic.
- SNAP households already receiving the maximum monthly SNAP for the household size will receive the extra 15%.

Household Size	Monthly Income Limit	Monthly SNAP Benefit During COVID
1	\$1,770	\$234
2	\$2,371	\$430
3	\$2,987	\$615
4	\$3,603	\$782
5	\$4,219	\$929
6	\$4,835	\$1,114
7	\$5,451	\$1,232
8	\$6,067	\$1,408

What is Pandemic EBT for families with children and how do I get it?

- **Children ages 3 to 17 and ages 18 to 22 (if still in high school), who have lost access to free and reduced price school meals due to COVID-19 school closures can get Pandemic EBT (P-EBT).** Only students who attend schools involved with the National School Lunch Program can qualify.
- These benefits are different from regular SNAP. **Families do not need to receive or qualify for SNAP to get P-EBT.**
- P-EBT benefits will be \$6.82 per child, per day school meal missed in school year 2020-2021.
- **Families do not need to apply for P-EBT.** The Illinois State Board of Education will tell DHS who qualifies for P-EBT. Make sure your child's address is up to date with their school so that you can get the P-EBT card.
- If your child is not automatically enrolled to receive free or reduced price meals, call your child's school or go to the school website to submit a meal application.
- **Families will get new P-EBT cards in the mail.** Benefits will **not** be put on existing LINK cards and will **not** be put on P-EBT cards sent to families last year. P-EBT cards will arrive in plain white envelopes with return addresses from Austin, TX. Be sure you open your mail so you do not accidentally throw your card away. **Keep the card even if you use all of the benefits on it.** Additional benefits might be loaded on this card in future months.

How do I apply for SNAP?

You can apply online at <https://abe.illinois.gov/> or call DHS at **1.800.843.6154**. **Community providers like Legal Aid Chicago can take applications over the phone from applicants and submit to DHS without applicant's signature.** Department of Human Services (DHS) will send a letter to tell you if you are eligible for SNAP. If DHS denies your application and you think it's incorrect, you can file an appeal online within 90 days of the date on the denial letter.

If you need help applying for SNAP or DHS denies your application, you can contact Legal Aid Chicago at 312.347.8342 or pbenrollment@legalaidchicago.org. We can help with other DHS benefits too.



Call
312.341.1070

Monday to Friday
between 8AM and 4:30PM

Or



Apply Online

www.legalaidchicago.org