



5343 West Roscoe Street  
Chicago, Illinois  
60641-4141

(773) 385-5100  
Fax (773) 385-5070

## **Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT), SNAP and Other Food Benefit Opportunities for Families**

During this very difficult time of uncertainty and survival, FSP and the Archdiocese of Chicago are happy to share information with you about opportunities to receive additional benefits for your family. For those of you facing potential hardship due to job loss, feeding your school age children has become a major concern. The new P-EBT benefit may suit you during this crisis.

### **Households that Currently are Receiving SNAP Benefits**

Children ages 3 to 17 and ages 18 to 22 (if in high school), who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to the pandemic are eligible for P-EBT SNAP benefits equal to \$5.70 per child per day times the average number of school closure days in the month for each eligible child in your household. If you currently receive SNAP benefits, this P-EBT benefit will be automatically added to your family Link cards.

### **Households Currently Not Receiving SNAP Benefits**

If your household does not currently receive SNAP, but you feel you may now be eligible, you are encouraged to apply. A SNAP calculator is available to enter your household information to determine your eligibility prior to completing the application. The following links will direct you to the calculator:

English: <https://fscalc.dhs.illinois.gov/FSCalc/>  
Spanish: <https://fscalc.dhs.illinois.gov/FSCalc/FSInputCalc.do?lang=es>

Once you have determined eligibility, you then can then apply for SNAP by clicking the following link:

<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/onenetlibrary/12/documents/Forms/IL444-2378B-IES.pdf>

Once you have applied and been approved for SNAP benefits, the P-EBT benefit will be automatically included with your SNAP benefits on your LINK card.

### **Households Not Eligible for SNAP but Currently Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Meals**

Households with school-aged children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals when school is in session, but do not currently receive or are eligible for SNAP benefits, may submit an application for P-EBT benefits. All families with children that would have received a free or reduced-price meal if school was in session are eligible and encouraged to apply for P-EBT regardless of income or citizenship. The applications are available in English and Spanish and can be accessed and filed online through the following portal website:

<https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/>

or by completing Form 5235 at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/12/documents/Forms/IL444-5235.pdf> (currently only available in English).

This P-EBT application is simple as well. Those who have been approved will receive a card similar from the state of Illinois similar to a LINK card and then begin receiving the P-EBT benefits on that card included with your SNAP benefits on your LINK card.

### **Households Not Eligible for SNAP and Currently Not Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Meals**

Families who have not been receiving free or reduced-price meals but who feel that their circumstances have changed may apply for Free or Reduced-Price Meals now even though school is not in session. If your family's circumstances now allow you to be approved for free or reduced-price meals, that will then allow you to be eligible to receive P-EBT benefits. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, you can complete the application form at [http://www.fspro.com/forms/nsfp\\_application.pdf](http://www.fspro.com/forms/nsfp_application.pdf) and send it to [applications@fspro.com](mailto:applications@fspro.com), or mail it to:

FSP  
Attn: Applications  
5343 W. Roscoe St.  
Chicago, IL 60641

### **Other Opportunities for Food Assistance**

The Chicago Department of Family and Support Services has made us aware of other opportunities for food assistance in south and west side neighborhoods of Chicago. These are:

- Home delivery of fresh produce and meat, chicken, fish and pork available with no delivery fee -- Chicago nonprofit Top Box Foods is doubling down on its commitment to serving those most vulnerable to COVID-19 by quickly adapting their delivery model to bring fresh produce and frozen meats directly to residents' doors on the South and West sides, limiting their exposure to the virus. During this pandemic, Top Box Foods is delivering directly to homes every Tuesday and Friday. Food is offered at up to 40% below retail and Top Box Foods takes SNAP in addition to credit cards. There is no delivery fee. Please see the flyer attached to this email, and to learn more, go to <https://www.topboxfoods.com/cook-county-chicago/shop-boxes>

For the Back of the Yards neighborhood, specifically:

- Produce Boxes available for SNAP households on the southwest side -- Plant Chicago is partnering with The Urban Canopy to distribute Link Produce Boxes to their neighbors on the southwest side. Produce boxes will be available for pick up in the Back of the Yards community on Saturdays with social distance practices in effect. This distribution is part of the Link Match program, so customers will only be charged \$20 on their Link Card for a box that retails at \$40. Call (773) 847-5523, email [stef@plantchicago.org](mailto:stef@plantchicago.org), or visit <https://plantchicago.org/farmers-market/link-produce-box/> for more information.
- **To find other emergency food opportunities in your community, use can also contact the Greater Chicago Food Depository's website** at: <https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/find-food/> or call (773) 247-3663 or 311, or visit the **Illinois Department of Human Services** at <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29721>, which has information for a number of food programs and services.

Our hope is that the above information helps you feed your families and keep you and them safe and healthy. Best wishes at navigating through this crisis.



State of Illinois  
Department of Human Services



# PANDEMIC EBT (P-EBT) SNAP BENEFITS

## Need Help Buying Food for Your School Age Children?

Apply for P-EBT SNAP Benefits. This is a special benefit that can help you buy food for your school age children 3 to 17 years old and 18 to 22 years old (in high school), who would receive National School Lunch Program free or reduced-priced meals when schools are in session.

## Already Receiving SNAP?

If you currently receive SNAP benefits, you DO NOT need to apply for P-EBT benefits. You are automatically eligible to receive these benefits. Your additional P-EBT benefits will be loaded into your Illinois LINK EBT account along with your regular SNAP benefits.

## How Much Will My Family Receive?

The benefit amount is a daily meal cost for the number of school days in the month for each eligible child in your home. For March, there were 10 school closure days. For April, there were 22 school closure days. March and April P-EBT benefits will be combined into one issuance for a total of \$182.40 per eligible child in your home. Benefits WILL BE ISSUED through the end of the school year.

## But My Family is Not Receiving SNAP Benefits

### Is This Benefit Based on Household Income/Resources/Citizenship?

No, the only eligibility factor is that your child(ren) attend a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program and are eligible to receive free or reduced-priced meals when they are in school. For many schools, individual students qualify for free or reduced-price eligible meals. For other schools that participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), all enrolled students will qualify as meals are provided at no cost to the students. If you recently applied for free or reduced-price meals, P-EBT benefits will begin the month you become eligible. The head of the household of these students currently not receiving SNAP benefits will need to apply and be approved for P-EBT benefits.

## How Do I Apply for P-EBT?

**These instructions are for you to follow if you are not already receiving regular SNAP benefits.**

- The most efficient way to apply is online at [ABE.illinois.gov](http://ABE.illinois.gov). If you apply online and include your Social Security Number (if you have one), it may help expedite the processing of your application for benefits; OR
- You can also complete a paper application by going to the IDHS website at [dhs.state.il.us](http://dhs.state.il.us) and email to [DHS.FCS.PEBT@illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.FCS.PEBT@illinois.gov); OR
- Mail a completed paper application to:

**Central Scan Unit  
P.O. Box 19138  
Springfield, IL 62763-9138**

## How Do I Get My P-EBT Benefits?

You will receive a P-EBT LINK card in the mail with instructions on how to set up a PIN and use the card. Your benefits will already be available on the card for you to make food purchases at most grocery stores.



IDHS 4980 (N-04-20) PEBT Flyer

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