



COMMUNITY  
**LEGAL SERVICES**  
of MID-FLORIDA

## COVID-19 & Extra Emergency SNAP Benefits: What You Need to Know

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is issuing emergency SNAP (food assistance or food stamp) supplements to many SNAP households to help buy food during the pandemic crisis.

### Will I get extra SNAP benefits?

If your monthly SNAP benefit is *less than* the maximum SNAP for your household, you will get a supplemental benefit up to the maximum SNAP grant. If you already get the maximum SNAP benefit, you will *not* get extra SNAP. This is because of a decision made by the federal government, not DCF.

Household size	Max. SNAP
1	\$194
2	\$355
3	\$509
4	\$646
5	\$768
6	\$921
7	\$1,018
8	\$1,164
Each add'l member	+\$146

Examples	
<i>Supplement</i>	<i>No Supplement</i>
Family A gets \$200/mo in SNAP for one adult and 2 kids. This family will get a <b>SNAP supplement of \$309</b> – boosting SNAP to \$509 (max for 3).	Family B gets \$509/mo in SNAP for one adult and 2 kids. This family will <b>NOT get any extra SNAP</b> , because they already get the max for 3.
Individual A gets \$16/mo in SNAP. This individual will get a <b>supplement of \$178</b> – boosting SNAP to \$194 (max for 1).	Individual B gets \$194/mo in SNAP. This individual <b>will NOT get any extra SNAP</b> , because they already get the max for 1.

### If I qualify for extra SNAP, when will I get it?

Eligible households who get SNAP for July 2020 will get an emergency SNAP supplement payment on their EBT card. Families who got SNAP in March, April, May and June should have already gotten their extra SNAP.

- ⇒ The first supplement came on about April 3 or 4 for March SNAP households.
- ⇒ The second supplement for April SNAP households came about April 8 for households that usually get SNAP between April 1-7. For households that got regular benefits after April 7, the supplement was part of their scheduled benefit allotment.
- ⇒ The third supplement for May SNAP households came at their usual scheduled time or by around May 11 for new recipients.
- ⇒ The fourth supplement for June SNAP households came by June 11 or at the household's usual scheduled time.
- ⇒ July participants who get their allotment between the 1st and 10th, should receive the maximum by July 10. All others can expect the additional July benefits to be part of their regularly scheduled July allotment. New recipients will get additional benefits within a week of being approved.

### How do I learn how much I get in SNAP and if I get extra SNAP?

- DCF may not send you a notice for extra SNAP. Check your balance and your monthly SNAP benefit amount by:
  - Checking your EBT balance online or by calling 1-888-356-3281.
  - Calling DCF's Customer Call Center at 1-866-762-2237 or 850-300-4323.

## What if I need help food shopping?

Any member of your household can use the SNAP EBT card to food shop. Their name does NOT need to be on the card. You can also give your EBT card temporarily to a *trusted friend or relative* to food shop for you. The store should not inspect the card. The store should not refuse to serve any customer with an EBT card and PIN. You can also use your EBT card to shop for food online at Walmart and Amazon. You may be able to arrange curbside pick-up. If the groceries are delivered by Walmart or Amazon, your EBT card may not be used for the delivery fees. If you order above certain maximum amounts, the delivery fee may be waived.

## What if I do not already get SNAP?

If you are low-income, apply now. If you are approved, you may also qualify for an extra SNAP payment. There are several ways to apply:

- The fastest way to apply is [online](#).
- DCF [says](#) that you can use a paper application by downloading and printing from this site: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/access/common-access-florida-forms.shtml>. The completed paper application can be mailed to ACCESS Central Mail Center, P.O. Box 1770, Ocala, FL, 34478-1770, or it can be faxed or hand-delivered to a [customer service center](#).
- In some areas, [community partners](#) may be open and able to help you apply. Call to confirm.
- You can apply for SNAP by phone if you have no other way to submit an application. The number to apply by phone is 866-762-2237 or 850-300-4323 (TTY 1-800-955-8771).

## What if I need meals for my school age children?

DCF is operating a Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) program so that low-income children will get [financial help to purchase meals](#) even though their schools are closed because of the pandemic. Benefits were mailed out by June 30, 2020. Find out more at this Department of Children and Families link <https://www.myflfamilies.com/covid19/docs/PEBT%20FAQ.pdf>. In addition, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has partnered with 2-1-1 to activate a text line and call center open 24/7 which Florida families can contact to find free meals for children under 18 during the current COVID-19 school closures. To find a site, simply text FLKIDSMEALS to 211-211, dial 2-1-1 to speak with a live operator, or click the link [Summer BreakSpot website](#). For most sites, no application is required.

## What other resources can help me?

- DCF COVID-19 information: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/covid19/>
- For information for workers who have lost pay: <http://www.floridajobs.org/Reemployment-Assistance-Service-Center/reemployment-assistance/claimants>
- For updated information on food resources: <https://www.floridaimpact.org/covid-19>
- For help with emergency food resources in your community:
  - Find a local food bank through <https://www.feedingflorida.org/taking-action/find-food-now/?foodSource=Food%20Banks>
  - Call 2-1-1 or visit <http://www.my211florida.org/>
- If your SNAP benefits are wrong, find free local legal help at <https://thefloridabarfoundation.org/>

