



## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Updates During COVID-19

Updated April 21, 2020

The widespread effects of COVID-19 have made it more difficult for many families to afford food, since many have lost jobs and income. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is essential to helping families put food on the table. Due to state and federal action in response to the pandemic, SNAP is more responsive than ever to meet the growing needs of Oklahoma families.

### **Changes to Household and Income Eligibility**

Currently, there are no changes to the standard income guidelines households must meet in order to qualify for SNAP. The main changes are for those who are Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). Changes to this group include the following:

- Benefit time limits have been put on hold during this state of emergency
- ABAWDs who timed out in the past or did not meet work requirements may now qualify for benefits
- Any amount of time an ABAWD spends receiving SNAP benefits during the health emergency will not be counted against future benefit time limits.

### **Changes to Benefit Amounts**

Maximum benefits will be given to SNAP recipients for the months of March and April without additional application. If a household was already receiving the max benefit, they will not receive an increase. The emergency allotments will be delivered directly to EBT cards. March benefits will be available between April 1-10. April benefits will be available between April 10-30.

### **Changes to Certification and Recertification**

*Certification:* Households applying for SNAP may do so online or over the phone. In-person application assistance can be scheduled "by appointment only." A household will receive their EBT card in the mail once approved. For a household to receive benefits as quickly as possible, they should apply online, complete the application as much as possible, and keep an eye on their phone to provide any follow up information needed by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

*Recertification:* Households with benefits scheduled to expire in March, April, or May of 2020 will be automatically extended by 6 months. Those households will need to recertify in September, October, or November of 2020.

### **Pandemic EBT**

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act mobilized the Pandemic EBT program. Pandemic EBT will allow households with children who receive free or reduced lunch at school to receive the monetary amount of the benefit on an EBT card. Oklahoma DHS is in the process of building a plan for this program. More details will be available once the plan is public.

To apply for SNAP visit [www.okdhslive.org](http://www.okdhslive.org).

If you feel that someone has been denied incorrectly email the caseworker directly or email [oksnapworks@okdhs.org](mailto:oksnapworks@okdhs.org). If you have made several attempts and cannot get through you may call the director's helpline at (405) 521-2779.

For more COVID-19 resources, including school meal and community resource maps visit [www.hungerfreeok.org/covid19](http://www.hungerfreeok.org/covid19).

[HungerFreeOK.org](http://HungerFreeOK.org)

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