**COVID-19 & Emergency SNAP Allotments:**

**What You Need to Know**

On April 7, 2020, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) [announced](http://jfs.ohio.gov/RELEASES/pdf/040720-Ohioans-Receiving-Food-Assistance-Receive-Extra-Support.stm) the issuance of emergency SNAP (food stamp) payments 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 Max SNAP for your household size in the table below, you will get an extra benefit on your SNAP card. If you get the Max SNAP benefit, you will NOT get extra SNAP. This is because of a decision made by USDA (the federal government), not ODJFS.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Household size** | **Max. SNAP** |
| 1 | $204 |
| 2 | $374 |
| 3 | $535 |
| 4 | $680 |
| 5 | $807 |
| 6 | $969 |
| 7 | $1,071 |
| 8 | $1,224 |
| Each add’l member | +$153 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Examples** | |
| *Supplement* | *No Supplement* |
| Family A gets $400/mo in SNAP for one adult and 2 kids. Since this is less than the Max SNAP of $535, Family A will get **a SNAP supplement of $135**. | Family B gets $535/mo in SNAP for one adult and 2 kids. This family will **NOT get any extra SNAP** because they get the Max SNAP for 3. |
| Individual A gets $16/mo in SNAP. The Max SNAP for one is $204. This individual will get **a supplement of $188**. | Individual B gets $204/mo in SNAP. This individual **will NOT get any extra SNAP** because they get the Max SNAP. |

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

* The government decides on a month-by-month basis if the state can give households extra SNAP payments. So far, extra payments have been approved each month since March.

**How can I learn how much I get in SNAP and if I get extra SNAP?**

You can check your balance and your monthly SNAP benefit amount by calling Ohio Benefits at **844-640-OHIO**. Enter your SSN and DOB to hear an automated messaged with your monthly SNAP benefit amount OR call EBT Customer Service at **866-386-3071** to check your balance.

**Should I call my local JFS office?**

You do NOT need to call JFS to receive extra SNAP payments. They will automatically get added to your EBT card. Local offices are very busy right now helping new households apply for SNAP and wait times may be very long.

**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 or refuse to serve any customer with an EBT card and PIN.

**Can I order my groceries online and pick up outside the grocery store?**

Maybe. Contact your local store and ask them if you can use an EBT card for curbside pickup.

Many farmers markets accept EBT and even double the EBT dollars you can use to buy produce. Additionally, Walmart, Giant Eagle, and some Kroger stores allow EBT cards to be used online for curbside pickup. They may require a minimum purchase amount.

**What if I do not get SNAP?**

If your gross income is below 130% of the federal poverty line (see chart below) you should apply for SNAP. If you are approved, you may get an extra SNAP payment this month. To apply:

* Apply online at **benefits.ohio.gov** OR
* Apply over the phone at **1-844-640-OHIO**

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| --- | --- |
| Household Size | Monthly Gross Income Limit\* |
| 1 | $1,383 |
| 2 | $1,868 |
| 3 | $2,353 |
| 4 | $2,839 |
| 5 | $3,324 |
| 6 | $3,809 |
| 7 | $4,295 |
| 8 | $4,780 |
| Each additional | +$486 |
| \*Households with individuals age 60+ or disabled aren’t subject to this limit. | |

This information is up-to-date as of November 12, 2020 and is subject to change.