

NYS Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Approved

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act created the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program, which issues a food supplement on the household's EBT card, to households with school aged children (5-18) who would otherwise receive free or reduced-price school meals. These temporary food benefits are to help cover the costs of meals children would otherwise have received at school. Benefit amounts will be \$5.70 per child, for each day that school is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic—equivalent to USDA's daily reimbursement for free breakfast and lunch.

There is no application process for P-EBT. Benefits will be issued automatically on existing EBT cards for households already receiving SNAP, Cash Assistance or Medicaid. For household who do not have an EBT card, new cards will be mailed.

Distribution of benefits will be staggered, with families receiving benefits at different times over the next several months.

Pandemic-EBT does not replace or affect eligibility for other nutrition programs; families can continue receiving emergency meals distributed by schools, SNAP, WIC, summer meals and/or meals in childcare in addition to Pandemic-EBT.

For more information go to <https://frac.org/research/resource-library/pandemic-ebt> and for NYS information visit: <https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Pandemic-EBT.asp>.

SNAP Emergency Allotment Available for May

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act provides a supplement via the Emergency Allotment (EA) to SNAP households who did not receive the maximum benefit amount for their household size. The supplement was issued for March and April. Beginning May 15, 2020 (in NYC) an EA will be issued to eligible SNAP household for May.

The amount of the supplement is the difference between the amount of SNAP benefits the household received for the month and the maximum benefit amount for the household's size. For example: A HH size of 3 receives \$ 209 in SNAP benefits every month. The maximum amount of SNAP a HH size of 3 can receive is \$509. Through the EA this household would receive an extra \$300 for the month of March, \$300 in the month of April, and now \$300 for May.

Households in receipt of the maximum SNAP allotment are not eligible for the EA. There is no application, eligible households will receive the benefit automatically on their EBT card.

For more information go to <https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2020/20DC045.pdf>

Lost EBT Card?

- Call 888-328-6399 and a replacement card will be mailed within 7 to 10 business days.
- A temporary card (vault card) can be obtained [at an open local Job Center](#).
- If you have an emergency and must get a replacement card on the same day, and you are unable to go to your local Job Center - there is an option to visit an Over the Counter (OTC) site open from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.
 - To pick up a replacement card you must have a valid photo ID
 - Visit the Brooklyn OTC site at 227 Schermerhorn Street - Ground Floor.

2020 Census

New Yorkers have until August 14th to complete the questionnaire. The Census can be completed:

- [Online \(Response Guide\)](#)
- By [Phone \(Response Guide\)](#)
- By [Mail \(Response Guide\)](#)

The Census is also available in 59 non-English languages, including American Sign Language, as well as guides in braille and large print, go to <https://2020census.gov/en/languages.html>

Burial Assistance

Burial assistance to meet funeral expenses for a deceased low-income New York City resident may be obtained by the Human Resources Administration (HRA), Office of Burial Services (OBS). Payment may be authorized to reimburse funeral expenses that have already been paid or pre-approval for payment may be authorized for the cost of a planned funeral. Assistance has increased to \$1,700 from the usual \$900 maximum amount.

To be eligible, the low-income decedents must not have resources or assets available to pay for their funeral. Proof of low-income status may include, receipt of social services benefits or public assistance from HRA such as cash assistance, supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits, or social security benefits including supplemental security income (SSI).

A legally responsible relative (a spouse or parent of a deceased minor under age twenty-one (21)) that applies for the allowance must also be unable to pay the funeral bill and meet the low-income eligibility criteria to qualify.

There is no immigration criteria. To apply go to <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/burial-assistance.page>

SNAP Authorized Representation

Advocates/representatives can assist clients in applying for SNAP via ACCESS HRA (<http://www.nyc.gov/accesshra>). The advocate/representative MUST:

- Obtain a signed copy of the *SNAP Authorized Representative Request Form* ([LDSS-4942](#)) AND
- Complete the SNAP application on the individual's behalf using ACCESS-HRA.

Once the LDSS-4942 is completed, the advocate/representative should create an ACCESS HRA account on behalf of the individual at <https://www.nyc.gov/accesshra>.

The advocate/representative should complete the SNAP application; on the last page of the application there will be an *Authorized Representative* screen. The advocate/representative should complete this section and use their own initials then submit the application.

Submitting Documentation: After submitting the application, the advocate/representative using the same credentials used to login to ACCESS HRA, must upload the completed LDSS-4942 form using the [HRA Mobile app](#). **NOTE: If this step is not completed the SNAP application will not be processed.** The LDSS-4942 form must be completed, signed and dated by both parties.

Emergency HP Case Without Going to a Courthouse

As of March 22nd, NYC Housing Courts have been accepting filings for essential proceedings only, that is, cases for illegal lockouts, serious housing code violations, or serious repair orders.

While courthouses are open to accept these filings, NYC Housing Court is encouraging parties to not visit a courthouse to start an emergency case. JustFix.NYC launched a new tool for tenants to start an Emergency HP Action proceeding to sue their landlord for repairs or harassment without going to court at <https://app.justfix.nyc/en/ehp/splash>. Tenants can also call Housing Court Answers at 212-962-4795 Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm for assistance in starting a case against landlords who are neglecting essential repairs or harassing tenants.

Extension of the NYS Eviction and Foreclosure Moratorium

Governor Cuomo has extended the eviction and foreclosure moratoriums, which were set to expire June 20, 2020. Executive Order 202.28 extends the moratoriums by an additional 60 days to August 20, 2020.

The extension of the eviction moratorium applies to residential and commercial tenants if they are eligible for unemployment insurance or benefits under state or federal law or otherwise facing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information go to <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20228-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

NYCHA's Office of Impartial Hearings Will Remain Closed

NYCHA's Office of Impartial Hearings will remain closed until Governor Cuomo's NYS "Stay at Home" Order is lifted for NYC. All hearings and conferences are adjourned; parties will receive letters with their new dates. For any questions, call 718-218-1182 or 718-218-1184.

Community Resources/Events

Answers for NYC Residents: COVID-19 Resource Guides

Since March 2020 we have made resource guides available on the impact COVID-19 had had across public benefit/housing programs and more. These are updated weekly.

- [COVID-19 Impact on Public Benefits](#)
- [COVID-19: What Workers Need to Know](#)
- [COVID- 19: Navigating Essential Services](#)
- [COVID-19: Navigating Every Day Activities](#)

In addition, we have posted our webinars on Expanded Unemployment Insurance, Impact of COVID-19 on Cash Assistance & SNAP benefits, and Impact of COVID-19 on Housing Programs & Services, plus the PowerPoint slides and handouts that were made available to webinar participants.

If you have any questions please contact us https://bplc.cssny.org/home/contact_us!

Information Gathering for GetFood Assistance Program

New York City is interested in obtaining information about that capacity of nonprofit providers to participate in the GetFood Food Delivery Assistance Program through potential emergency contracts. The City is seeking nonprofits with a focus on culturally sensitive meals to reach the goal to deliver one million meals a day to seniors.

The *Request for Information* can be found [here](#). For more information go to [NYC.gov/nonprofits](https://nyc.gov/nonprofits). Submissions are due by May 29th.