

Accessing Healthy Food During COVID-19: A Webinar on Federal and Local Food Programs for Families & Children

District Resource Guide

May 13, 2020

You can find the recording of the webinar and the presentation slides [here](#).

Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- DC WIC homepage: dcwic.org
- COVID-19 related updates (clinic operations, updated food list, etc.): dcwic.org/covid-19
- D.C. Hunger Solution's COVID-19 & WIC FAQ
 - [English](#)
 - [Spanish](#)
- LinkUDMV: <https://linkudmv.org/>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Online application portal: dcbenefits.dhs.dc.gov
- D.C. Hunger Solution's COVID-19 & SNAP resources
 - [COVID-19 & SNAP FAQ](#)
 - Fact Sheet: Information for Individuals who lost hours or job due to COVID-19
 - [English](#)
 - [Spanish](#)
 - SNAP application assistance - email info@dchunger.org or call 202-649-1088 to leave a message to receive assistance applying for SNAP
- Amazon online SNAP purchasing guide: amazon.com/snap-ebt

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)

- DHS will publish a P-EBT landing page and launch a P-EBT Call Center once P-EBT goes live
- D.C. Hunger Solutions [P-EBT FAQ](#)

Additional Resources

- **Text Hotline for Free Meals for Kids:** *The District created a texting hotline where families can text **FOOD or COMIDA** to 877-877 to find meals for kids in their community. Details are given in Spanish if they text COMIDA.*



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- **Get Help Hotline:** Residents that are homebound because of COVID-19 can request support from the District for food and other essential items such as hygiene kits and pediatric kits. Call **1-888-349-8323** or click here: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/gethelp>
- **D.C. coronavirus webpage** (coronavirus.dc.gov/food) has information and a helpful resource map with the following information:
 - Meal site locations for children & youth aged 18 and under
 - Grocery bag pick-up locations at 10 DCPS meal sites
 - Meal and grocery delivery for residents who are homebound because of COVID-19
 - Meals available for unsheltered residents
 - Meal delivery for seniors
 - And more!
- D.C. Food Project's resource page: dcfoodproject.org/emergency-food-access
- LinkU, DC Health's search tool to find resources in health, housing, food, and more: linku.auntbertha.com/

Presenter Information

D.C. Hunger Solutions (DCHS)

- dchunger.org
- info@dchunger.org; (202) 640-1088
- DCHS COVID-19 resource page: dchunger.org/home/covid-19-food-resources/
- DCHS COVID-19 policy update page: dchunger.org/covid-19-policy-updates/

D.C. Food Policy Council

- dcfoodpolicy.org
- dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov

DC WIC

- dcwic.org
- info.wic@dc.gov; 202-442-9397

D.C. Dept. of Human Services

- dhs.dc.gov/service/apply-benefits
- dhs.covid19@dc.gov

Q&A

General

Q: What if families I serve speak English as a second language? Do these programs offer language interpretation services?

A: Yes. Both SNAP and WIC provide translation and interpretation services. Several SNAP and WIC staff speak multiple languages. As well, all SNAP and WIC staff are



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*trained to use a District-provided language access service. The District also has a texting hotline where families can text **FOOD or COMIDA** to **877-877** to find meals for kids in their community. Details are given in Spanish if they text COMIDA to the texting hotline.*

Q: Where can I find special store hours for seniors, vulnerable populations, and pregnant women?

A: You can find the list of stores providing special hours on the <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/food> webpage.

WIC

Q: What additional resources are available to families if they run out of food/formula before the end of the month?

A: Families can use [LinkU](#) to find local organizations and food pantries that provide [supplies for infants](#). Families can also find local organizations partnering with the [Greater DC Diaper Bank](#) to meet their diaper needs; families should look closely at the requirements for each partner organization before visiting.

Q: Can new participants apply for WIC on the phone?

A: Yes. New and returning participants can call their [local WIC office](#) to apply for WIC.

SNAP

Q: Where can I find the online SNAP application?

A: dcbenefits.dhs.dc.gov

Q: When does the online SNAP purchasing program go live? Can families use SNAP-EBT along with non-EBT cards?

A: The online SNAP purchasing program is live as of May 13. [Amazon](#) is currently the only approved vendor, but DHS is working to bring in additional stores into the program. Families can use both their SNAP-EBT and non-EBT credit/debit cards to purchase groceries.

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)

Q: If families qualify for free or reduced-priced meals at school but do not have an EBT card, how will they receive benefits?

A: An EBT card with P-EBT benefits will be mailed to them.

Q: Will families with children in childcare be able to receive P-EBT benefits?

A: No. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act authorized P-EBT for students participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Most childcare centers serve meals using the Child & Adult Care Food Program, so families enrolled are not eligible for P-EBT benefits. However, families with children in Pre-



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Kindergarten 3 and 4 at D.C. Public Schools and public charter schools are eligible for benefits.

Q: What is the difference between SNAP-EBT and P-EBT?

A: SNAP-EBT is an existing federal program to support the nutritional needs of low-income individuals and families. P-EBT is a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act which provides benefits to purchase foods to families who have lost access to free school meals due to COVID-19 related school closures. Benefit amounts are equal to the price of a free school breakfast and lunch. P-EBT is available to all families eligible for free or reduced-price lunch which SNAP has more strict eligibility guidelines. P-EBT does not count towards a public charge test and is open to non-U.S. citizens and mixed immigration households.

Q: Do parents have to apply for P-EBT benefits?

A: No. If a student is already eligible for free or reduced-price school meals or attends a [Community Eligibility Provision school](#), they are automatically enrolled in P-EBT. If a family does not fall into either of these categories and might be newly eligible, they can enroll in P-EBT by [applying for SNAP benefits](#) or by contacting their school to complete a Free and Reduced Price Meal application.

Resources for Older Adults

Q: What resources are available for older adults who do not meet the financial guidelines of SNAP or other food assistance programs?

*A: Seniors who need food resources or information on other resources can call the Dept. of Aging and Community Living's (DACL) hotline **(202) 724-5626**. The call center will conduct a quick assessment and connect them to the appropriate service. If they are not eligible for DACL programs, DACL will connect the seniors to other community resources. Seniors can also use [LinkU](#) to find local organizations and food pantries that provide food assistance. Seniors can also call the Capital Area Food Bank's Hunger Hotline at **202-644-9807** for recommendations on food resources.*

Q: Where can older adults access meal delivery?

*A: The Dept. of Aging and Community Living (DACL) has transitioned all senior meal sites to home-delivered meals. Seniors who already received meals are now receiving up to 14 meals delivered once a week. Seniors who need food resources or information on other resources can call DACL's hotline **(202) 724-5626**. The call center will conduct a quick assessment and connect them to the appropriate service.*