

Accessing Healthy Food During COVID-19

A Webinar on Federal and Local Food Programs for
Families & Children



Welcome & overview

- We have muted everyone on entry to the webinar; please stay muted if not speaking.
- The webinar will be recorded and sent out after the webinar.
- We will have about 15 minutes for questions. Please type questions in the chat throughout the webinar.
- If you run into technical difficulties, please notify us in the chat or email **Emily at emily.johnson@dc.gov**



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First of all, thank you!

- Thank you for all that you have been doing to support families during COVID-19.
- You play an important role in getting information to families and helping spread information about these programs.
- We know that the need for food and other support has increased during this public health emergency, and your work will continue to be critical to supporting families moving forward.



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Goal of the webinar

- This webinar will provide important updates on federal and local food programs and share information on how eligible families can apply and participate in these programs.
- This webinar is aimed at organizations who directly support District families with children.
- This webinar is a high-level overview of several programs, and we will provide contact information if you want to learn more about specific programs.



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Programs covered during this webinar

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)
- Federal stimulus checks
- Other food resources available during COVID-19



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DC WIC: COVID-19 Updates

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District of Columbia WIC Program

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

www.dchunger.org - (202) 640-1088 - info@dchunger.org

Topics

- WIC Overview
- COVID-19 updates
- Connecting families to WIC
- LinkU



www.dchunger.org - (202) 640-1088 - info@dchunger.org

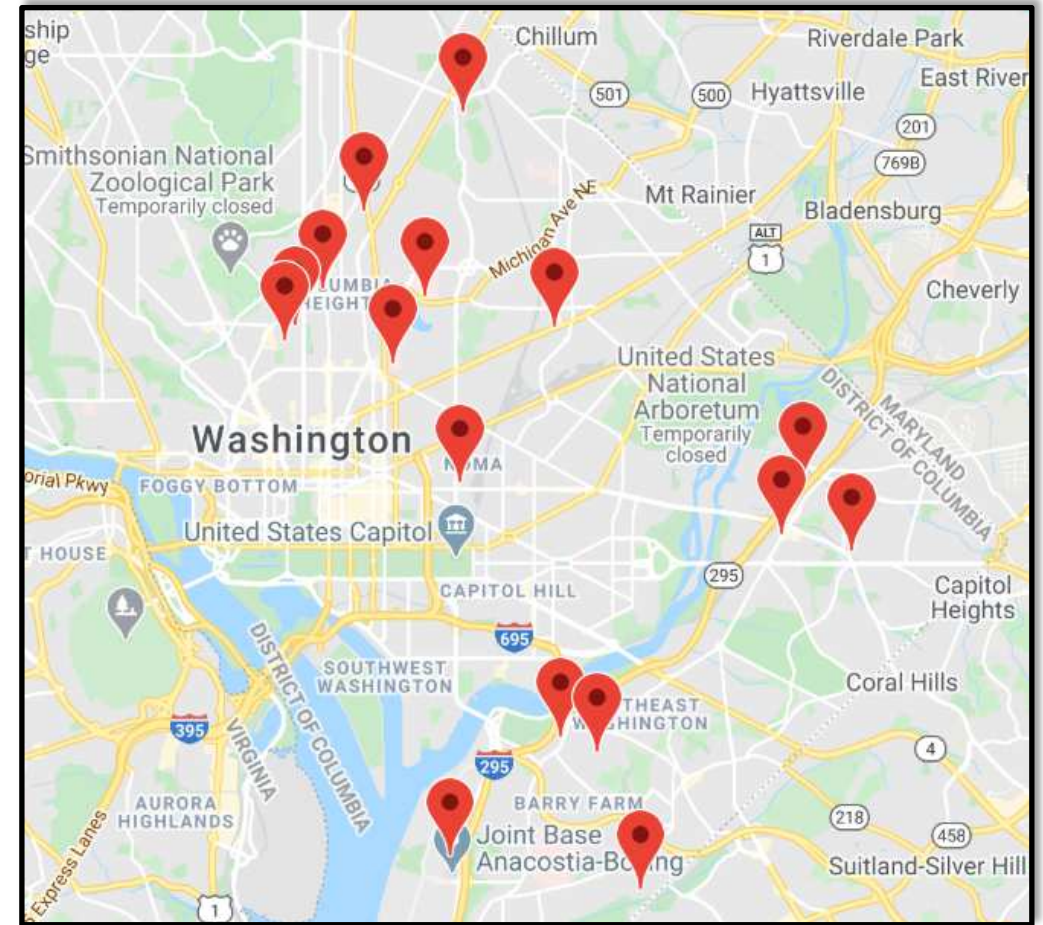


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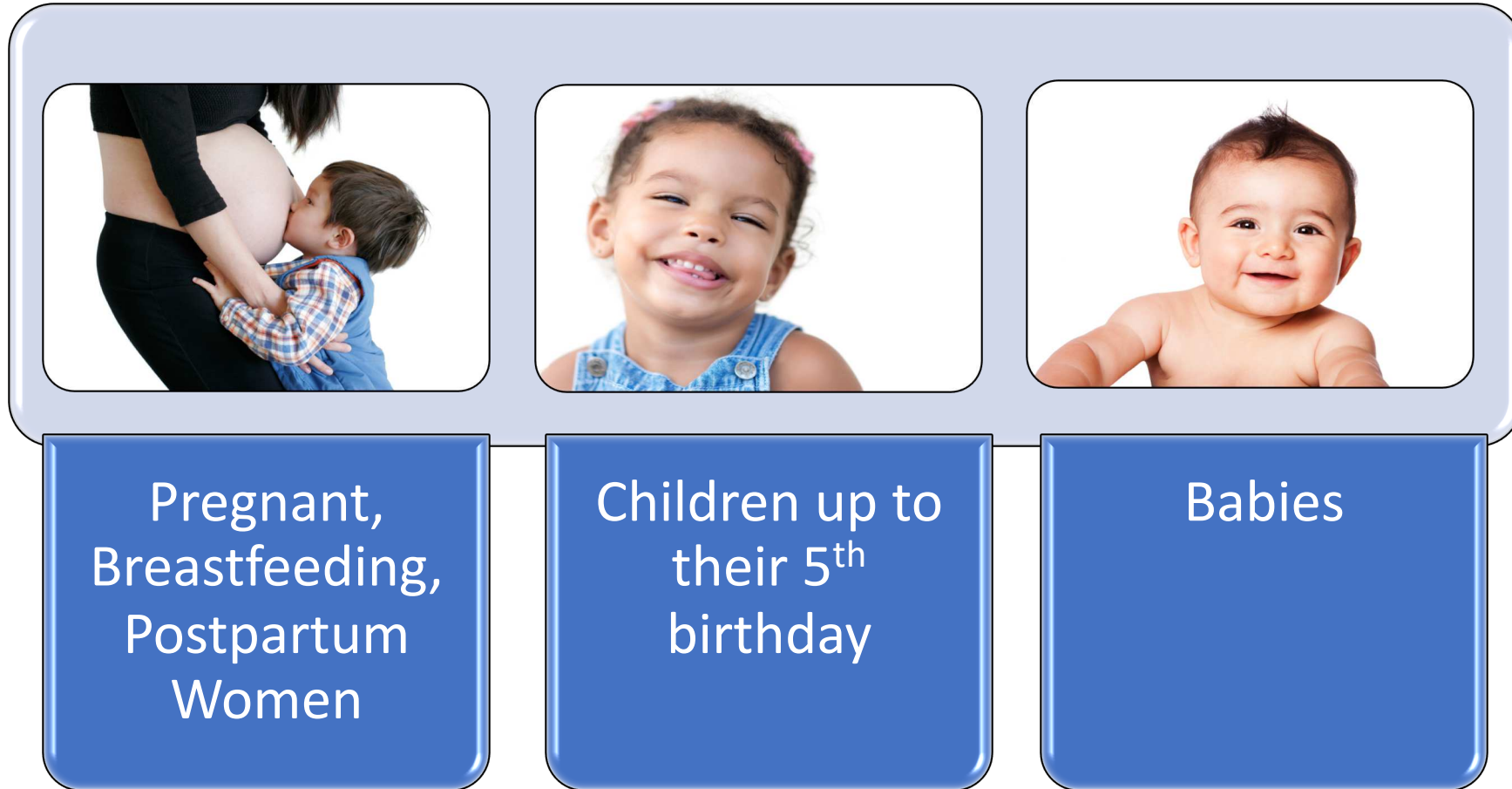
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WIC Overview

- What is WIC?
 - *Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children*
- DC WIC serves 14,000 participants
- 15 offices
- Find a WIC office at dcwic.org



Who Receives WIC Services?



WIC is for all kinds of families



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WIC Eligibility Overview



Category



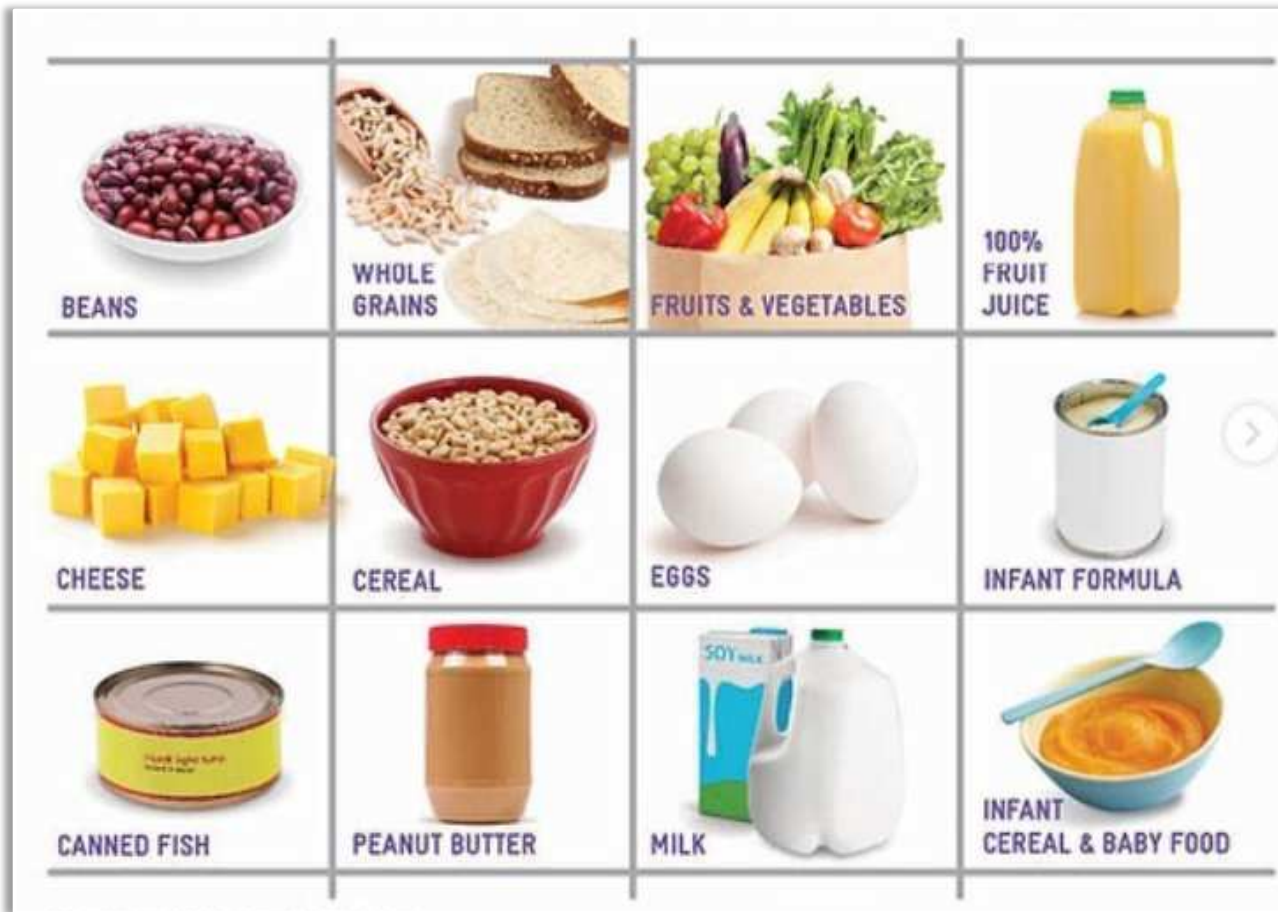
Income



Live in DC



WIC Foods and Grocery Stores



Find a list of DC WIC Authorized Grocery Stores at dcwic.org

www.dchunger.org - (202) 640-1088 - info@dchunger.org



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Nutrition Education

- Caring professional staff
- One to one tailored counseling
- Classes/educational materials
- Connect families to other support/health services



Breastfeeding Support



Staff trained in
breastfeeding



Peer counselors &
support groups

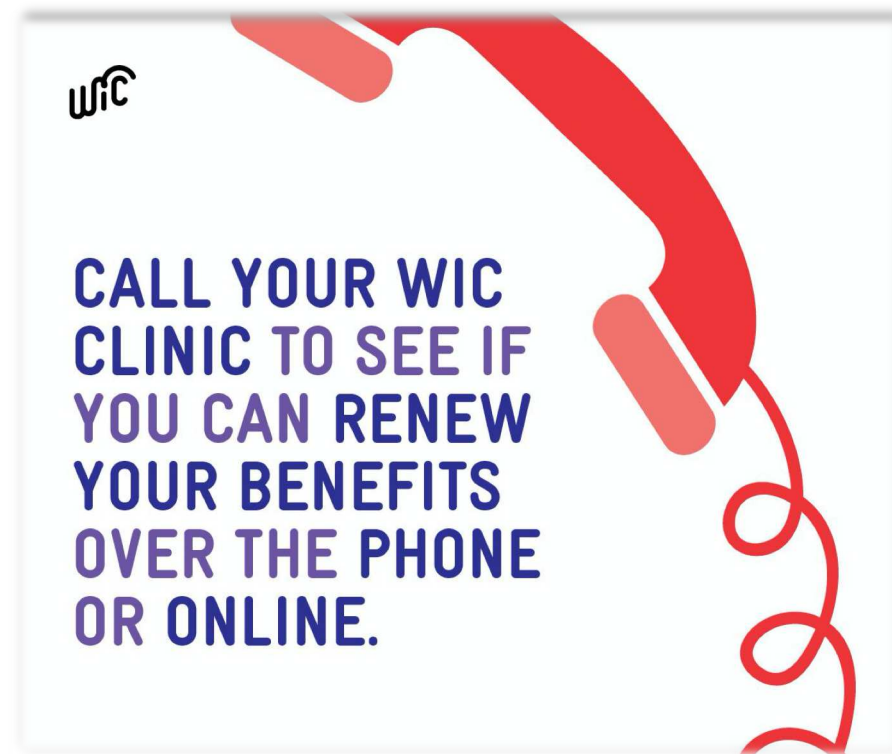


Breastfeeding
classes



DC WIC COVID-19 Updates

- DC WIC continues to serve women, infants & children in DC by offering certifications for new and current participants over the phone.
- **Many individuals and families are now eligible for WIC.**
- New & current participants are asked to:
 - Stay home and **NOT** visit WIC sites
 - **Call WIC sites** to schedule appointments.



For a list of WIC site phone numbers, visit dcwic.org.

www.dchunger.org - (202) 640-1088 - info@dchunger.org



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DC WIC COVID-19 Updates

- DC WIC is mailing 2-3 months worth of checks to participants to ensure families can purchase WIC foods, including infant formula, at grocery stores.
- DC WIC has temporarily expanded the DC WIC food list to include more food items to help address stocking issues that some grocery stores are facing.



Visit dcwic.org to view the Expanded Food List

www.dchunger.org - (202) 640-1088 - info@dchunger.org



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Connecting Families to WIC

- Website:
 - dcwic.org
- Phone:
 - **Call a local WIC office**
 - Site contact info:
dcwic.org/wic-locations
 - **Call the WIC State Agency**
 - 202-442-9397



LinkUdmv.org

- Search for free or reduced cost services like medical care, food, job training, and more.
- Includes more than 3,000 programs serving DC residents
- LinkU has developed COVID-19 Resource Guides to help families experiencing financial hardship



Welcome to LinkU

Find health, food, housing, and more, anywhere.

Let's get started!

Zip

Q Search



www.dchunger.org - (202) 640-1088 - info@dchunger.org



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SNAP Pandemic-EBT Stimulus Payments

Geoff King, DC Department of Human Services

Geoff.King@dc.gov

DHS COVID-19 Updates

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




May 13, 2020



Topics

- SNAP/TANF Online Application Process
- Emergency Allotments
- P-EBT
- Public Benefits Considerations
- Stimulus Payments
- SNAP Employment & Training Program

Summary of Program Changes

	 SNAP	 TANF	 Medical Assistance
Certification Extensions	Auto-extended if due in March, April, May, and June	Auto-extended if due in March, April, May, and June	Auto-extended if due in March, April, May, June, and July
Mid-Certifications/Interim Contact	Waived	N/A	N/A
How to Apply	Online, Service Center, Mail	Online, Service Center, Mail	Online, Service Center, Mail
Interviews	Waived	Waived	Waived
Submitting Verifications	Online, Service Center, Mail, Email	Online, Service Center, Mail, Email	Online, Service Center, Mail, Email
Verifications	All required	All required except comprehensive assessment, orientation, and IRP	Self-attestation except Citizenship, Immigration Status, and LOC
Changes	Process as normal	Process as normal	Do not process if makes customer ineligible
Terminations	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed except for residency, requested by customer, or death
Treatment of COVID-19 Benefits	Stimulus Checks: Excluded FPUC: Counted	Stimulus Checks: Excluded FPUC: Counted	Stimulus Checks: Excluded FPUC: Excluded
Emergency Allotments	March, April, and May	N/A	N/A

FPUC = Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

Application & Verification Submission



ONLINE

SNAP, Cash/TANF, and Non-MAGI (not LTC), Alliance and ICP:

<https://dcbenefits.dhs.dc.gov/>

MAGI Medicaid:

<https://dchealthlink.com/>



PICK-UP/DROP-OFF

H Street
Congress Heights
Taylor Street



MAIL

Department of Human Services
Economic Security Administration
Case Record Management Unit
P.O. Box 91560
Washington, DC 20090

Emergency Allotments

- Temporary increase in SNAP benefits for **SNAP** households **not** receiving the max allotment for their household size (~50% of DC's SNAP caseload)
- Allotment = difference between household's certified allotment and max allotment for household size
- Allotments issued for March, April, and May
- No action is needed from customer; auto-loaded onto EBT card

Impact to DC*



\$11 million

issued in SNAP Benefits



34 thousand

SNAP households

*As of 5/1

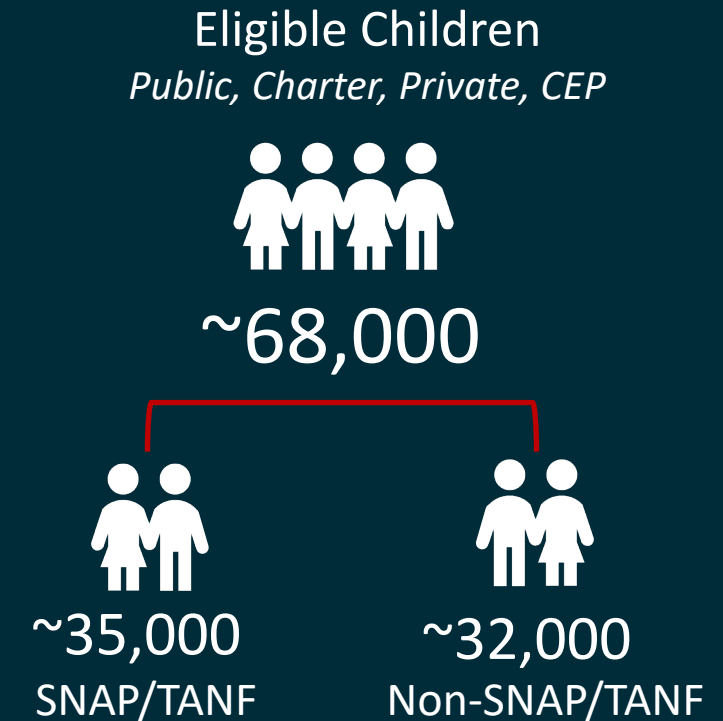
Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Overview

- New benefit program authorized under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020
- Provides Federally-funded food benefits to children who received or are newly certified to receive free or reduced-priced school meals
- Food benefits are equal to the value of meals at the free rate (\$5.70 per school day/\$28.50 per week) provided on an EBT card
- Requires States to submit plans to USDA-FNS for approval

District's P-EBT Plan

Pending USDA Approval

- OSSE + DHS with support from DCPS & DCPCSB
- Benefit coverage: March 16 – June 19
- Families w/EBT Card (SNAP/TANF)
 - P-EBT auto-loaded
- Families w/o EBT Card (Non-SNAP/TANF)
 - Cards mailed w/P-EBT benefits loaded



P-EBT Enrollment

P-EBT enrollment is dependent on the child receiving or certified to receive free or reduced-priced school meals.

Automatic Enrollment

Majority of DC children

- ✓ Attending CEP school that provides all children free school meals
- ✓ Attending non-CEP school and receiving free or reduced-priced school meals

Receive P-EBT for Mar - June

New Enrollment

- ✓ Directly certified for school meals if family is certified for SNAP
- ✓ Apply for school meals program directly with child's LEA

Receive P-EBT for month of cert - June

P-EBT Outreach





- P-EBT Hotline
- Flyer posting and distribution
- LEA communication channels
- Website and Social Media
- Robocalls to families after P-EBT issuance



Qualifying for Public Benefits

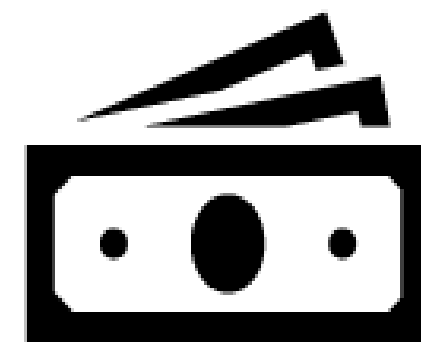
Individuals that have lost a job, had hours reduced, or taken unplanned leave may qualify for Unemployment Insurance, Paid Sick Leave, or Workers Compensation through the DC Department of Employment Services (DOES). These benefit levels may be higher than public benefits provided through DHS and also may impact eligibility for DHS benefits. We encourage those that may be eligible to visit does.dc.gov/service/unemployment-compensation-process to learn more.

DHS Public Benefits – Monthly Income Thresholds per Family Size

Household Size	Food Benefits (SNAP)	Cash Benefits (TANF)	Free Health Insurance	Childcare Services
	\$2,082	\$574	\$2,126	\$1,040
	\$2,818	\$675	\$2,873	\$1,409
	\$3,555	\$818	\$3,620	\$1,777
	\$4,292	\$964	\$4,366	\$2,145

Note: Income requirements vary by household, these are general guidelines, you may be eligible if your income is lower or higher than the estimates above. DHS will review each application on a case by case basis to determine eligibility. Childcare subsidies work on a sliding scale, the income requirements shown above are for 100% coverage. Some may qualify for more than one program.

Federal Stimulus Payments



- IRS Economic Impact Payments (Stimulus Payments) of up to \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per child authorized for most U.S. Citizens. For details, see www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center.
- Many families with low incomes may not receive without additional action. Automatic payments only go to those that filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019; or that have Social Security retirement, disability (SSDI), survivor benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Veterans Affairs benefits.
- Portal available for anyone that isn't filing for 2019 and may be missed at www.freefilefillableforms.com/#/fd/EconomicImpactPayment.
- Additional tax-related help available through Catholic Charities – contact fsn@cc-dc.org. Individuals that worked may be eligible for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).



SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T)

Helps SNAP recipients achieve their career goals through a broad range of services focused on their interests and needs.

- **Benefits:** Dedicated specialists to assist, connections to employment, access to over 15 external service providers, and funds for transportation, childcare, and other participation expenses.
- **Services:** Career coaching and guidance, job placement, training and education, resume and interview assistance, and support services.
- Interested individuals should call 202-535-1178. Program staff and many service providers available to serve participants remotely during COVID-19 emergency.
- Open to any SNAP recipient not receiving TANF. TANF participants can contact the Office of Work Opportunity at 202-698-1860 for employment services.



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Other Food Resources During COVID-19

Emily Johnson, DC Office of Planning

Emily.Johnson@dc.gov



Other District food resources during COVID-19

School meals for
kids under 18
years

Free groceries at
school meal sites

Home-delivered
meals & groceries
for residents in
quarantine

Meals for
residents
experiencing
homelessness

Home-delivered
senior meals



Free school meals for kids under 18 years old

- 29 DCPS schools and 20+ charter schools located across the city
- DCPS: 10 am to 2 pm
- DCPS providing lunch and shelf-stable breakfast, up to 3 bags per day

**Visit coronavirus.dc.gov/food
Text FOOD or COMIDA to
877-877**

Free groceries at school meal distribution sites

12:30 pm to 2 pm; 300 bags at each site; first come, first served

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Brookland Middle School (Ward 5)	Kelly Miller School (Ward 7)	Coolidge/Wells (Ward 4)	Anacostia High School (Ward 8)	Ballou High School (Ward 8)
Eastern Senior High School (Ward 6)	Stanton Elementary School (Ward 8)	Woodson High School (Ward 7)	Kimball Elementary School (Ward 7)	Columbia Heights Education Campus (Ward 1)

Resources for residents in isolation and self-quarantine

- Residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, directed to self-quarantine by a medical provider, or showing symptoms and need help accessing food or other resources
- Home-delivered meals (21 meals),
- Home-delivered groceries (7 days)
- Other supplies (hygiene and pediatric)

Call 1-888-349-8323
Visit gethelp.dc.gov

Meals for residents experiencing homelessness

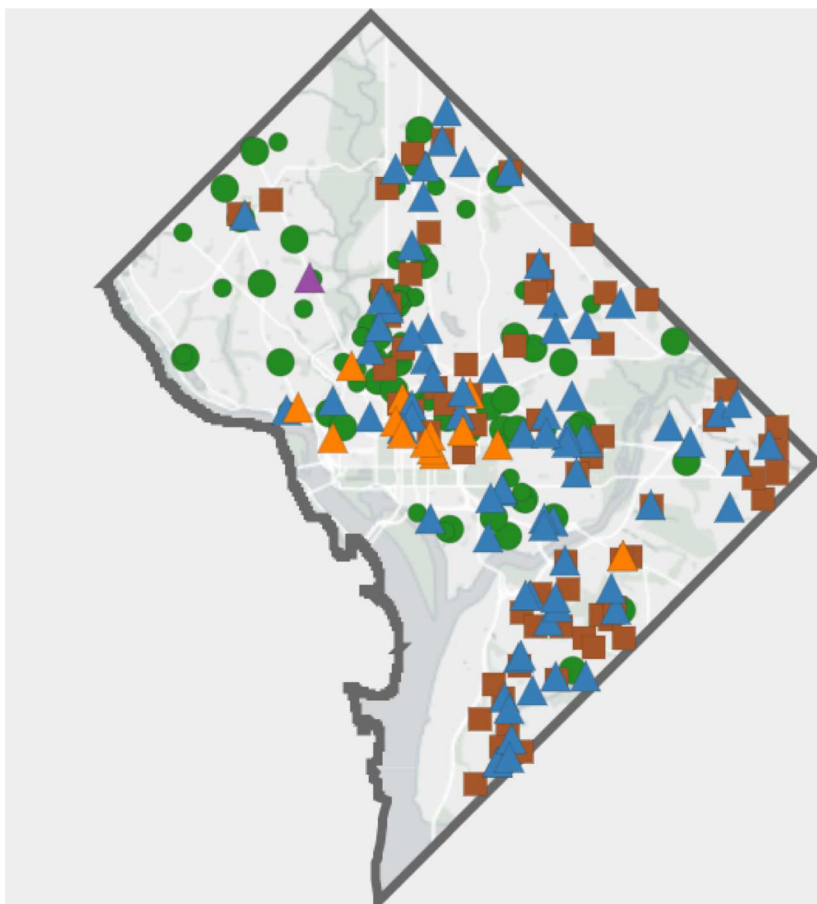
- All shelters are open 24/7 and provide 3 meals per day for all clients
- Daily meals for unsheltered individuals are provided at various distribution points
- Outreach teams are delivering 400+ meals daily to unsheltered individuals

**Email for more information:
dhs.covid19@dc.gov**

Home-delivered meals for seniors

- DACL senior wellness centers & community dining sites are closed
- Participants are now receiving once a week delivery of 14 meals
- Seniors in need of food or other resources can **call (202) 724-5626**

How to find these additional food resources



- Find the District's food resource map and more details on **coronavirus.dc.gov/food**
- Text **FOOD** or **COMIDA** to **877-877** to find meals for kids near you
- Hotline for isolation: **1-888-349-8323** or visit **gethelp.dc.gov**

**Questions? Email
dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov**

Questions?

Please type your questions in the chat box.



Resources

D.C. Hunger Solutions

- ✓ Download [SNAP & WIC fact sheets](#)
- ✓ Stay updated on [federal and local policy](#)
- ✓ SNAP application assistance

SNAP application [online portal](#)

[DC WIC's](#) webpage

District Coronavirus Updates webpage and [food finder](#)

Keep in touch!

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D.C. Dept. of Human Services
dhs.covid19@dc.gov

DC WIC
info.wic@dc.gov

D.C. Food Policy Council
dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov

