

Emergency Food Benefit Supplements Frequently Asked Questions

DSHS is sending emergency supplements to people who get food assistance (issued via EBT card). If you got benefits in March or April, you were issued an emergency supplement for each month to bring the amount up to the maximum for your household size. Now the emergency supplements are extended for May benefits and will be reviewed on a month to month basis.

Why is this happening?

Congress approved extra benefits to give people the ability to buy more food. This will reduce the number of times people need to go shopping for groceries. It will also limit the number of people at stores and lower the chance for COVID-19 contact.

When will I get the extra benefits?

You will receive the May supplement on the date your benefits are normally issued to your EBT card.

I just applied for food assistance this month. Will I get extra benefits?

If you are eligible for food assistance, you will get the maximum benefit amount for your household size.

I already get the maximum amount of benefits. Will I get extra benefits?

If you already get the maximum benefit amount, you won't get additional food benefits.

What are the maximum benefit amounts?

Eligible Household Members	Maximum Benefit
1	\$194
2	355
3	509
4	646
5	768
6	921
7	1,018
8	1,164
9	1,310
10	1,456
Each Additional	+ 146

I am eligible for Basic Food, but I don't get any benefits. Will I get extra benefits?

Yes. You will get an extra benefit of the maximum amount for your household size if you usually get \$0.

I get WASHCAP/Transitional Food Assistance/Food Assistance for Legal Immigrants benefits. Will I get extra benefits?

Yes. The extra benefit applies to all food assistance programs.

How much extra benefit will I get?

You'll get the difference between your regular benefit and the maximum amount for your household size. For example:

You and your partner both work and get a total of \$200 of food benefits on May 10. The maximum allotment for a two-person household is \$355. $\$355 - \200 is \$155. You'll get an additional \$155 in emergency benefits. You'll get your normal \$200 with an additional \$155 for a total of \$355 on your regular date, May 10.

Will I have to pay back these benefits?

These are extra benefits meant for your use. There is no reason you'd have to pay them back.

Will I lose these extra benefits if I don't use them right away?

No. You are allowed 365 days from the date of your last debit activity to use the extra and regular benefits.

Will these extra benefits affect my immigration status?

No.

Will DSHS issue maximum amounts after May?

We will review if we can give you the maximum amount for your household size on a month to month basis, depending on federal approval.

How many people will get extra benefits?

Based on emergency supplements issued in March and April 2020, DSHS anticipates giving extra benefits to approximately 283,000 households in May.

What is the average amount of the extra benefit?

Across the state, the average extra amount per household is \$170. Some households will get more, some less.

Will DSHS send me a letter when I get the extra benefit?

No. We are not sending letters when we issue the extra benefits. If you want to know when your benefits are in your account, you can call the number on your EBT card to check your balance or use your Client Benefit Account on www.washingtonconnection.org.

Should I call the Customer Service Contact Center?

Due to our higher than normal call volumes, we are asking you don't call the call center about the extra benefits. Check for the latest information on our social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or at www.dshs.wa.gov.