

## Emergency Food Benefit Supplements Frequently Asked Questions Updated November 2020

DSHS is issuing additional food benefits via EBT card to households who receive less than the maximum amount for their household size. This started with March and April benefits and will continue 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?**

The issuance dates for this program may vary depending on federal approval and if the first of the month is on a Sunday. This means the earliest you may receive benefits is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month.

### **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	\$204
2	374
3	535
4	680

5	807
6	969
7	1,071
8	1,224
9	1,377
10	1,530
Each Additional	+ 153

**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 October 10. The maximum allotment for a two-person household is \$374. \$374 - \$200 is \$174. You'll get an additional \$174 in emergency benefits. You'll get your normal \$200 with an additional \$174 for a total of \$374 on your regular date, October 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 every month?**

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.

**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](http://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](http://www.dshs.wa.gov).