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Good news! Child nutrition program waivers were extended to feed children into 2021. That means children in Tennessee can continue to receive support during the pandemic through programs like Pandemic-EBT. We applaud the steps taken to address hunger among Tennessee families during the pandemic, yet many continue to experience hunger. More support is needed to support Tennesseans who cannot afford food. Read on to learn more about the positive measures taken to support the child nutrition program programs and what you can do to support the food security of families in Tennessee!

Child Nutrition

Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program

[Congress extends P-EBT through 2021!](#)

This allows Tennessee to provide P-EBT funds to families with children who miss school meals due to school closures caused by COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 school year and into the next school year. Your child may be eligible for P-EBT if:

- School is closed for at least 5 days or longer
- He or she attends remote learning without access to free or reduced-price meals
- Your child has lost access to childcare

- School aged children must be enrolled in free or reduced-price meals to be eligible

P-EBT benefits for families who missed the application for March, April and May P-EBT have not yet been distributed. Connect with your child’s school to learn more about P-EBT for March, April and May if you missed the application. P-EBT benefits for August and September are coming soon. TJC will share updates as we learn more.

- August and September benefits arriving to families soon: DHS started mailing August and September P-EBT benefits on October 5. Families should start to receive their P-EBT benefits soon. All qualified families will receive a new card. This includes families who participate in the SNAP (food stamp) program and Families First. Not all children are eligible for the August and September P-EBT benefits.
- 217,000 children missed by the P-EBT application for March, April and May will receive cards. We will share more information when we know these cards become available.

Resources: Learn how P-EBT has supported families during the pandemic. Check out the recent report by FRAC and CBPP [here](#).

TJC will send updates on any breaking news regarding P-EBT as we learn about them. [Sign-up here to be the first to know](#).

Summer and School Meals Waivers Extended

USDA announced on October 9, that it would [extend critical waivers](#) that will allow meal programs to continue to operate to serve children during the pandemic. This allows flexibilities for the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option through June 30, 2021. This will ensure schools and private nonprofit organizations have the time and flexibility needed to reach children who rely on free and reduced-price school.



SNAP benefit amounts increase 5% October 1

Every year, SNAP amounts increase slightly for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). This year it will increase 5% rather than 2%. The minimum amount will not increase from \$16. Read more [here](#).

Household Size	Max Monthly Benefit
1	\$204

2	\$374
3	\$535

SNAP emergency allotments approved for October

DHS has issued the full benefit amount to households since April. This means if you normally receive \$16 every month, you will receive \$204 for a household of one.

Please Share! If you work with individuals who participate in SNAP, be sure to check for the total allotment – it is automatically added to EBT cards, but DHS is only sending notices with a SNAP households estimated benefit amount based on non-pandemic times. You may have extra money on your cards.. You can check your benefit amount by calling this number: 888-997-9444; or you can check your balance online:

<https://www.connectebt.com/tnebtclient/>

SNAP Access Call Oct 20 at 1pm - [register here](#)

This call covers updates to SNAP program, policy, and federal legislation for SNAP Access Partners across the state. Partners share questions and barriers to continue fighting hunger in Tennessee. Please contact Signe Anderson at sanderson@tnjustice.org to learn more about participating in the SNAP Access Call.

Memphis Food Systems Summit Oct 22 at 9:15am to 1pm - [register here](#)



College Hunger Call Oct 13 - Email sanderson@tnjustice.org to get the slides and recording!

Advocacy Action

TELL YOUR SENATORS: Strengthen SNAP in the next COVID-19 legislative response package

1. Increase the max SNAP benefit by 15%
2. Increase the min SNAP benefit from \$16 to \$30 per month
3. Suspend all SNAP administrative rules that would weaken or terminate benefits

#FEEDTN

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The WIC Program

Waivers extended

In September [USDA granted an extension of WIC flexibilities](#) until thirty days after the end of the nationally-declared public health emergency.

On September 30, the Senate passed the Continuing Resolution which extends USDA waiver authority through September 30, 2021.

The WIC waivers being extended allow for:

- Participants to be approved for WIC without being physically present in a local office;
- Remote issuance of benefits to any participant;
- Flexibility in food package requirements, including dairy, grains, vegetables, and infant foods; and
- Additional options for pick-up of food packages

Learn more about WIC Waivers [here](#).

Know someone who is pregnant, or has a child under 5 in the home? Encourage them to sign up for WIC at [signupwic.com](https://www.signupwic.com)!

Check out our new resources on WIC in TN [here](#).

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- Why is #schoollunch important? In Tennessee over 641,000 children rely on free and reduced price meals. Celebrate National School Lunch Week! Oct 12–16 #fuelingbodies #feedingminds #healthykids #NSLW2020
- In November we celebrate Veterans Day. As we honor our service member it's important to ensure that those who serve our country are also supported Nov 11 #FeedTNVeterans
- Share information about voting! Voting impacts the funding and rules around the federal nutrition programs. Make your voice heard about these issues, and vote on November 3, or earlier! #VoteToEndHunger

What We're Reading

- [Southern Strong Hunger Project Survey /Share the information](#)
- [A crisis within a crisis – food security and COVID-19](#), NPR
- [Voting guide from The Equity Alliance](#)

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Tennessee Justice Center
211 7th Ave N
Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37219
United States

info@tnjustice.org | 1-877-608-1009 | <https://www.tnjustice.org>

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