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## HUNGRY AT HOME IN TENNESSEE

### P-EBT Helps Memphis Mother Feed Kids

Tennessee families struggled to afford nutritious foods and pay their bills before the pandemic, but one Memphis mom has had an extremely tough time since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. She and her husband moved to Tennessee from out of state 15 years ago and started a family. They now live in Memphis with their 6 children. They became eligible for Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) in March of 2020, which is the only food support they receive. She shared that P-EBT was extremely helpful to her family. When school is in session, her children participate in the free school meal program, so she never had to worry about if they would have hot and nutritious meals for lunch. Now that all 6 children are learning from home, she struggles to afford enough food for everyone. [Read the story here.](#)

### You Can Help Feed Tennessee Children

Help families like the one above connect to food resources. Donate today!



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## CHILD NUTRITION

### Introducing TJC's New SNAP Outreach Toolkit!

The SNAP Outreach Toolkit for Schools is here! The pandemic has been especially hard on families, and more people than ever are now eligible for life saving food assistance programs like SNAP. Use this toolkit to help families across Tennessee put food on their table during the pandemic. The toolkit contains a collection of outreach materials like email templates, newsletters, videos, and social media posts for schools and other partners to help connect families to SNAP resources. Here is a link to the [SNAP Toolkit](#)

### National School Lunch Week is Here

Celebrate National School Lunch Week November 11-15! School meals are an important resource for feeding children across the United States. They provide a stable source of nutritious food for hundreds of thousands of children across Tennessee. Want to get involved? Check out the [USDA's website](#) and utilize our [SNAP Toolkit](#) to help connect students to important nutrition resources.

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## P-EBT

### P-EBT for the 2021-2022 School Year

P-EBT is not yet available in Tennessee for the 2021-2022 school year but will continue for eligible children who miss school and school meals due to COVID-19. We do not yet have information on when P-EBT will be available to eligible children in Tennessee. Follow us on social media and stay tuned for email alerts as we learn more. If your child receives P-EBT, or if you work with families who receive P-EBT, please remember that students must be enrolled in free or reduced price meals through their school to be eligible for P-EBT.

Highlights from [the USDA P-EBT guidance](#) for the 2021-2022 school year include:

P-EBT is only available for students who miss school for 5 consecutive days or more due to COVID-19. Children must be enrolled in free or reduced-price school meals to be eligible for P-EBT. Parents should confirm with their

child's school that they have completed their child's application. P-EBT will be available for eligible school age children as well as eligible children under the age of 6 years.

## Keep Round 3 P-EBT Cards

Please keep your P-EBT card. If your child is eligible for P-EBT during this school year, benefits will be loaded onto your child's existing card. If you are missing P-EBT benefits from Round 3, please call DHS at 833-496-0661, or visit the [DHS Parent Portal](#) to ensure that your child's information is correct. Families may also appeal through [this link](#) if you believe that your child has been missed.

## P-EBT for the 2021-2022 School Year

Visit our [P-EBT page](#)! Learn more about P-EBT, who qualifies, and who to contact if you did not receive your benefits.

Do you want to help connect eligible children to P-EBT? Please sign up for our P-EBT Partner Calls by emailing [esherwood@tnjustice.org](mailto:esherwood@tnjustice.org).



SNAP

## Maximum Allotment Extended into October!

SNAP participants will continue to receive the full SNAP benefit for their household size during September (see chart). However, the extra 15% added onto the maximum expired in September.

### SNAP Benefits by Household Size

Household Size	Maximum Monthly Benefit, Fiscal Year 2022
1	\$250
2	\$459
3	\$658
4	\$835
5	\$992
6	\$1,190
7	\$1,316
8	\$1,504
Each additional person	\$188

## SNAP Benefit Increase Takes Effect

The SNAP benefit increase starts this month! SNAP participants will receive a modest increase – generally between \$12 and \$16 per person, per month. The minimum SNAP benefit is now set at \$20 per month.

# WIC

## USDA Extends WIC COVID Flexibilities

For the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, USDA will allow states to apply for waivers to continue operating WIC. [Read more about it here.](#)

## Congress Approves Continuing Resolution Allowing for Extended Support for Families to Buy Fruits and Vegetables

Congress approved the continuing resolution, which included a temporary increase of WIC's Cash Value Benefit (CVB) for vegetable and fruit purchases that were set to expire on Oct. 1, 2021. [Read more about it here.](#)

## Applying for WIC During COVID

WIC offices remain closed for in-person visits, and appointments are being conducted by phone. Contact your [local office](#) to schedule an appointment. Ask questions or apply at 1-800-DIAL-WIC.

**Do you have or need a WIC Appointment?**

 Services are being done **by phone!**  
*Don't come in, call in!*

**Call your local County Health Department!**

 **1-800-DIAL-WIC**  
or **TN.gov/WIC**

# ADVOCACY UPDATES

## Bills to Support

Urge your members of congress to support these bills today! [Find your representative here.](#)

**Access to Healthy Foods for Young Children Act of 2021 ([S. 1270](#))**– Strengthens and expands the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) by allowing for another meal or snack, expanding eligibility, and increasing reimbursement rates for sponsors and providers.

**Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2021 ([S.2192/H.R.47077](#))**– Increases SNAP benefits, expands SNAP to include U.S. territories, and eliminates eligibility restrictions like time-limits.

**Improving Access to Nutrition Act ([H.R. 175](#))**– Eliminates 3-month time limit for SNAP and provides flexibilities for people seeking work while participating in SNAP.

**Enhanced Access to SNAP Act [S. 2515 /H.R. 1919](#)**– Provides flexibilities for low-income college students to access SNAP.

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## UPCOMING WEBINARS

**SNAP Access Call** (Thursday, October 21 at 10:00 am CT) – Monthly call to discuss SNAP advocacy, casework best practices, and nutrition program updates.

Email [aluttrell@tnjustice.org](mailto:aluttrell@tnjustice.org) for more information and for the link to register.

**Food Assistance for Immigrants and Refugees** (Thursday, October 28, at 11:00 am CT) – Join us for a discussion on how to connect immigrant and refugee communities to food safety net programs like SNAP and WIC. We'll discuss the state of immigrant and refugee hunger in Tennessee, how SNAP and WIC can help, and how partners across the state can work together to eliminate hunger in our state. [Register today!](#)

**Hunger and Homelessness** (Monday, November 15, at 1:00 pm CT) – Join us for a conversation on how to connect people experiencing homelessness to food assistance programs like SNAP and WIC. Learn about that state of homelessness in Tennessee, how folks with unstable addresses can still participate in federal assistance programs, and how you can help. [Register today!](#)

{{Disclaimer}}

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

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