



**Did you know?**

December was the last month that all SNAP participants received the pandemic maximum allotment. Benefits will be reduced for many households.

**Read More Below**

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# HUNGRY AT HOME IN TENNESSEE

## You Can Help Feed Tennessee Children

The pandemic has deepened the food insecurity crisis in our state and children are at the highest risk. Ensure that no Tennessee child goes without food in the New Year by [donating today!](#)



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## CHILD NUTRITION

### The Summer Meal Program

The USDA announced that the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) will increase the reimbursement to sponsors by an additional 25 cents per lunch during summer 2022. This increase gives schools and community organizations who serve summer meals to kids more money to provide quality meals for children during a time when food insecurity spikes for many families. [More about the USDA announcement here.](#)

### \$1.5 Billion to Help Schools Provide Meals

The Biden administration announced that \$1.5 billion in USDA funding will now become available to help schools feed children as inflation and supply chain issues disrupt school meals across the country. Each school will receive approximately \$5,000 to help purchase food with an additional \$500 billion set aside to encourage districts to purchase local food. For many students, school meals are the healthiest and most consistent source of food. This funding will help support schools and ensure that children across the country get the nutritious food that they need. For more information, [click here.](#)

### Free/Reduced Price School Meals in the New Year

If you are a parent of a school-age child who is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, be sure to fill out an application with you school. Here's more information about [eligibility for the National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\).](#) Please share this with parents or guardians of school-age children that you know. Participation in this program is a requirement for P-EBT and helps schools receive important funding to support students and the community. [Parents can apply by contacting their school today.](#)

### Build Back Better and Tennessee

The Build Back Better Act would benefit child nutrition across the state of Tennessee. Here's how: [https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/BBB-Fact-Sheets\\_TN.pdf](https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/BBB-Fact-Sheets_TN.pdf).

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# P-EBT

## P-EBT Supports Families with Children as Pandemic Intensifies

During the pandemic, many families who do not qualify for SNAP were able to access important food assistance through the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program called P-EBT. One Clarksville mother shared with us how important P-EBT was to her family after they lost their SNAP benefits while battling COVID-19. She had previously received SNAP benefits before her marriage. After her marriage, she and her husband's joint income made them ineligible for benefits. [Read more here...](#)

## P-EBT Stalled for this School Year

**P-EBT has not been sent for the 2021-2022 school year.** Children who miss school and school meals due to COVID-19 for 5 consecutive days or longer and are enrolled in free/reduced price school meals or attend a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school may be eligible once P-EBT is available.

If you are a parent who is waiting for P-EBT, [please share your story](#) to encourage the state to act quickly to get benefits out to Tennessee families.

We do not yet have information on when P-EBT will be available to eligible children in Tennessee. [Follow us on social media](#) and [sign up for our email alerts](#) to receive up-to-date information.

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# SNAP

## Disaster SNAP

Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) is available for households who are impacted by natural disasters. It provides replacement benefits for SNAP households that lost food during the storms and is also available to other households that might not otherwise be eligible for SNAP. A state of emergency must be declared for a county to be eligible for D-SNAP. After the tornadoes in Tennessee on December 11, President Biden granted an emergency declaration to nine counties that include Cheatham, Decatur, Dickson, Dyer, Gibson, Lake, Obion, Stewart, and Weakley counties. [Read](#)

[more about the declaration of emergency here](#). Those counties may become eligible for disaster SNAP soon. We will send out an email alert as soon as we know more. [For more information on D-SNAP, please click here](#).

## Maximum Allotment Ends!

The pandemic maximum allotment for Tennessee SNAP participants ended January 1, 2022. Benefit amounts will now be determined based on income and resources like they were before the pandemic. If you participate in SNAP, your benefit may decrease starting in January. For seniors and individuals with a disability, you may be able to use unpaid medical bills and expenses to factor a higher SNAP benefit. If you or someone you know needs assistance with food this month because of a lower benefit amount, food banks and pantries are open across Tennessee. [Find one near you by using this link](#).

## Lost SNAP Benefits During the Pandemic? Take this SNAP Survey:

Have you lost access to SNAP (food stamps) during the pandemic? Or did you try to apply and were not able? [Please fill out this short survey](#). Your answer could help to improve the SNAP program.



WIC

## Extra Money for Fruits and Veggies in the New Year

WIC families, remember to use your extra money for fruits and vegetables! The higher WIC benefit for fruits and vegetable is available through the end of March 2022. If you are pregnant, or breastfeeding, you should receive as much as \$43 or \$47 respectively to buy more fruits and vegetables. And children are eligible for \$24 in benefits. [Click here for more information](#).

### WIC Fruit and Vegetable Benefit Amounts

Category	Temporary CVB Amount
Child	\$24
Pregnant and Postpartum	\$43
Breastfeeding	\$47
Exclusively Breastfeeding with multiples	\$70.50

If you haven't received the higher amount you are eligible for, call your local WIC department now. [Find your WIC office here](#). If they can't help call **1-800-DIAL-WIC** for assistance.

## 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**

The graphic features a dark blue header with white text, a light blue background with a phone icon, and a dark blue box with white text. At the bottom, there is a logo for the TN Department of Health and a light blue box with white text.

## ADVOCACY UPDATES

### Sign-on Letters to Support

Sign your group onto the Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) comment letter. In 2019, the previous administration tried to unravel support for immigrant families coming to the United States, making it difficult for them to receive food or healthcare. [Read the PIF letter here](#) and add your group's name [to this form](#) today!

### Bills to Support

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

**Build Back Better (H.R. 5376)** – Includes important child nutrition provisions that would make the summer P-EBT programs permanent and offer more funding to support free school breakfasts and lunches for students across the country. [For more information, click 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.4077)** – 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.

**Military Hunger Prevention Act ([S.1488](#))**– Would create a basic needs allowance to help low-income military families put food on the table.

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## UPCOMING WEBINARS

**SNAP Access Call** (Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 10:00 am CT) – This is a monthly call to discuss SNAP advocacy, casework best practices, and nutrition program updates. E-mail [aluttrell@tnjustice.org](mailto:aluttrell@tnjustice.org) for more information and for the link to register.

**Hunger and Health During the Pandemic** (Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 2:00 pm CT) – Join us for a conversation with Dr. Gerald Onuoha on how the pandemic has deepened the food insecurity crisis in our state and what that means for the health of Tennesseans. We'll discuss how COVID-19 has perpetuated inequalities within our food and health systems, how food assistance programs can help, and how we can advocate together for systemic change. [Register today!](#)

**College Hunger Call** (Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 2:00 pm CT) – Join us for our first quarterly college hunger call of the year. We'll be discussing how to support food insecure college students using SNAP and WIC. Connect with colleges and universities across the state on their anti-hunger outreach and how we can work together to ensure that no college student goes hungry as pandemic supports starts to expire. [Register today!](#)

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