

# What is the difference between E-SNAP and P-EBT?

Both E-SNAP (Emergency-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and P-EBT (Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer) are federal waivers requested by the State of Minnesota and granted by the US Department of Agriculture during this State of Emergency in place as part of the federal and state responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. These waivers/programs are being processed by the State of MN Department of Human Services directly, and not by local counties.

## **E-SNAP is an EXTRA SNAP benefit for households already receiving SNAP (food).**

This means that households already receiving SNAP in March, April, May and/or June 2020 will receive an extra amount bringing the total benefit level to the maximum allowed, based on household size. If the household is already receiving the maximum, there is no additional bump in benefit amount.

All households who had SNAP, or MFIP, in March—should have received their additional benefit automatically issued onto their EBT card by June 15. April E-SNAP disbursement is in process and should be completed by mid-June. May benefits will be automatically distributed after April E-SNAP distribution is done. Minnesota Food Assistance Program (MFAP) participants March and April benefits have also been issued.

There is no form or application necessary for E-SNAP—the state Department of Human Services is automatically calculating and issuing these benefits to households not already receiving the maximum.

## **P-EBT is a NON-SNAP free/reduced-price meal replacement program open to **EVERYONE** whose kids would have received free/reduced-price meals during the 2019-20 school year, if schools were open.**

P-EBT is meant to replace the free/reduced-price meals that were missed due to COVID-19 and schools enacting distance learning. You can receive both the box/bag lunches provided by schools and community partners AND P-EBT.

Families who had children ages 5—18 years of age, as of 9/1/19, who received free/reduced-price meals or attended a school where every student received free lunch during the 2019-20 school year qualify for P-EBT. This is a one-time benefit of \$325 per eligible child. There is no citizenship requirement.

If you were receiving SNAP on March 18, 2020 and your family has children that qualify, the Pandemic benefit was automatically deposited on your SNAP-EBT card on May 30. A separate card will not be issued. Call EBT-Edge to check your balance.

If you did not have an active SNAP (food) case on March 18— even if you had one previously that closed or have an open case now — you will need to complete a **short P-EBT application** at: **[mn.p-ebt.org](https://mn.p-ebt.org) BEFORE June 30, 2020.**

If you have questions about this program, please read FAQ at [mn.gov/dhs/p-ebt/faqs](https://mn.gov/dhs/p-ebt/faqs) or call the State Department of Human Services P-EBT hotline at (651) 431-4050 or (800) 657-3698.