

## TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF SNAP BENEFITS DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) are pleased to announce that, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has expanded college students' access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP benefits (formerly called Food Stamps).

For students to be eligible, they must:

- Be currently enrolled in college at least half-time;
- Have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of zero **or** be eligible for student work study, even if not participating;
- Have verification from a Student Aid Report (SAR), financial aid award letter, or letter from their institution.

**Students with a 0 EFC or those eligible for student work study should have received an email from Student Financial Services on March 10<sup>th</sup> indicating that they meet the criteria to be considered for expanded SNAP eligibility.**

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: There are additional SNAP rules and income eligibility criteria you must meet to qualify.

For example, you may need to apply for SNAP with other people you live with, including:

- Your parents – if you are under 22 years old;
- If you are a parent, your children who are under age 22;
- Your spouse; and
- Anyone else with whom you live and share most (2/3 or more) of your meals

If you are a member of a household already receiving SNAP, please submit the email you received from Student Financial Services on March 10<sup>th</sup> to your county JFS office so that you may be added to your household's case. If you misplaced the email, you can also send any document from your college that has your name on it, your zero EFC, or work study eligibility.

Below are the current SNAP eligibility income limits and monthly benefit amounts:

Household Size	Monthly Gross Income Limit	Monthly Maximum SNAP Benefit Amount*
1	\$2147	\$234
2	\$2903	\$430
3	\$3660	\$616
4	\$4417	\$782
5	\$5173	\$929

\*Temporarily, all households who qualify for SNAP receive the maximum amounts for their household size – as long as there is a federal public health emergency.

Here's how to apply for SNAP:

- Go to Ohio Benefits <https://benefits.ohio.gov> to submit an application online
- A paper application can also be printed and mailed to your local county JFS office
- Upload a copy of the email you received from Student Financial Services on March 10<sup>th</sup> showing that you either have a 0 EFC or are eligible for Federal Work Study with your application as proof of your temporary eligibility for Ohio EBT

To learn more about Ohio EBT, including income and eligibility requirements, visit the Office of Communications at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Throughout this process, please be on the lookout for letters in the mail from JFS. You can also go to FreshEBT.com or download the free Fresh EBT mobile app to see nearby stores and farmer's markets that take EBT and check your balance online.

Eligible students can use SNAP benefits to buy food through an EBT card (which can be used like a debit card at qualifying retailers). SNAP can be used to buy food at supermarkets, local groceries, corner stores, farmers markets, and from Amazon, Walmart, and Aldi (through Instacart).