

Basic Food Emergency Supplement FAQ

DSSH is sending emergency supplements to people who get Basic Food (EBT). If you got Basic Food in March, you'll get more benefits to bring your March amount up to the maximum for your household size.

Why is this happening?

Congress approved extra benefits to give people the ability to buy more food. This will reduce the number of times people need to go shopping for groceries. It will also limit the number of people at stores and lower the chance for COVID-19 contact.

When will I get the extra benefits?

March benefits are available on April 4th.

What about April benefits? Are there changes to those amounts?

If you're already getting benefits in April, you'll get the maximum amount for your household size on your regular benefit date, unless you get them on April 1st – 3rd. If you get them April 1st – 3rd, you'll get the extra April benefits on April 4th.

I didn't apply until April. Will I get extra benefits?

You won't get extra benefits for March if you didn't apply until April. But, you'll get the maximum amount for your household size if approved in April.

I already get the maximum amount for March or April. Will I get extra benefits?

If you already get the maximum benefit amount, you won't get another benefit in March or April.

What are the maximum benefit amounts?

| Eligible Household Members | Maximum Benefit |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | \$194 |
| 2 | 355 |
| 3 | 509 |
| 4 | 646 |
| 5 | 768 |
| 6 | 921 |
| 7 | 1,018 |
| 8 | 1,164 |
| 9 | 1,310 |
| 10 | 1,456 |
| Each Additional | + 146 |

How much extra benefit will I get?

You'll get the difference between your regular benefit and the maximum amount for your household size. For example:

You and your partner both work and get a total of \$200 of food benefits on March 10th. The maximum allotment for a two-person household is \$355. \$355 - \$200 is \$155. You'll get an additional \$155 in emergency benefits. You'll get your normal \$200 with an additional \$155 for a total of \$355 on your regular date on April 10th.

Will I have to pay back these benefits?

These are extra benefits meant for your use. There is no reason you'd have to pay them back.

Will these extra benefits affect my immigration status?

No.

Will DSHS issue maximum amounts for May or June?

Congress approved extra benefits for March and April 2020 only. If Congress approves more months, DSHS will issue extra benefits for those months.

How many people will get extra benefits?

DSHS is giving extra benefits to approximately 277,000 households in March and April.

What is the average amount of the extra benefit?

Across the state, the average extra amount per household is \$155. Some households will get more, some less.

Will DSHS send me a letter when I get the extra benefit?

No. We are not sending letters when we issue the extra benefits. If you want to know when your benefits are in your account, you can call the number on your EBT card to check your balance or use your Client Benefit Account on www.washingtonconnection.org.

Should I call the Customer Service Contact Center?

Due to our higher than normal call volumes, we are asking you don't call the call center about the extra benefits. Check for the latest information on our social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or at www.dshs.wa.gov.