

Food Assistance – Pandemic Response

Recertification:

- Households who were due to send in recertification (review) forms in March, April, or May do not have to do that.
- All March, April, and May Food Assistance cases that were due for renewal were automatically given a six-month extension
- Normal eligibility criteria must still be met.

Maximum Allotments in April and May:

- To help during the pandemic, Iowans who get Food Assistance benefits in April and May will automatically get the maximum monthly amount for the number of people in the Food Assistance household. See the chart below.
- The increased amount of benefits for April and May will appear in the EBT account automatically with normal monthly benefits – recipients didn't need to do anything to get the additional benefits.

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Each Additional Person
Gross Monthly Maximum	\$194	\$355	\$509	\$646	\$768	\$921	\$1018	\$1164	+\$146

Work Requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs):

- Federal legislation allows states to suspend Food Assistance work requirements
- Iowa will not terminate benefits for failure to comply with ABAWD work requirements.

Online Option to Purchase Food

- See attached information sheet, *Online Purchasing Pilot – Iowa*

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 provides for approval of a P-EBT program. Children who would receive free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closure are eligible under this provision.
- Iowa DHS is working with the Iowa Department of Education to determine the feasibility of this plan in Iowa
- A press release will be made if this program is approved in Iowa

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

- Pantries are OPEN
- Participants should refer to the food bank's website (or contact them directly) to find an agency near them – the Iowa Food Bank Association's website is <https://www.iowafba.org/>
- Food banks have increased mobile opportunities
- The income guideline has changed - a household is eligible if they have an emergency need based on an income change

Other useful links:

- DHS Website COVID-19 resources: <https://www.dhs.iowa.gov/COVID19>
- Scam alerts: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/scam-alerts>