

March 19, 2020

**ND Dept of Human Services – Economic Assistance Division
Food Assistance**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

If I have self-quarantined and run out of funds to purchase food and groceries, can I get help from SNAP?

Anyone who is food insecure can apply for assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Individuals who have a loss or reduction in income are encouraged to apply.

Individuals can apply utilizing an [online application](#) or via contact with a [Human Service Zone office](#) (the office could mail an application to you).

What happens after I submit an application?

The staff who determine eligibility can connect with you via a telephone interview, instead of a face-to-face interview. Once benefits are approved, the Electronic Benefit Card (EBT) can be mailed directly to you.

Is there additional assistance available during the pandemic situation?

New Options for Food Support related to COVID-19 Pandemic

Food and nutrition is recognized as a critical need. There are several additional rules included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act related to reducing food insecurity. If/When the Families First Coronavirus Response Act is passed by Congress, the Department of Human Services will pursue additional provisions to reduce food insecurity. Rules proposed in the Act include:

- **SNAP Benefits Due to School Closures** – Provides Congressional authority for states to issue temporary SNAP benefits to households with children eligible for free or reduced school meals if schools are closed for a period longer than five days. Affected areas have a public health emergency declaration and an approved State agency plan.
- **Waives SNAP Work Requirements** – Temporarily waives work requirements in areas with a public health emergency designation, beginning April 1, 2020.
- **Adds Flexibility in SNAP Administration** – Provides flexibility for states to issue emergency allotments to SNAP recipients to address temporary food needs and to adjust benefit issuance methods based on circumstances on the ground.

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 325 | Bismarck ND 58505-0250

701.328.2332 | Fax 701.328.1060 | 800.755.2716 | 711 (TTY) | www.nd.gov/dhs

To help determine whether you might qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance benefits, use our [Calculator](#) or visit the [AARP Benefits QuickLINK](#).

To apply for SNAP, complete the [Application for Assistance](#) and/or contact your local [Human Service Zone Office](#).

For more information on the SNAP Program or other Public Assistance Programs, visit the North Dakota Department of Human Services Public Assistance page at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/index.html>.