Public Benefits in DC during Coronavirus

Need to Apply for SNAP (Food Stamps), TANF (Cash Assistance), or Medicaid or Alliance (Public Health Insurance)?

Apply through the DC Department of Human Services (DHS):

Use DHS’s new smartphone app. Go to https://dhs.dc.gov/dcaccess, or search “District First” in the Apple or Google Play store.

Apply online at https://dcbenefits.dhs.dc.gov/, or https://enroll.dchealthlink.com/users/sign_up (to apply for Medicaid)

Call the DHS Call Center at (202) 727-5355 to ask for an application to be mailed to you, OR

Pick up or drop off an application at a Service Center:

H Street Service Center: 645 H St., NE
Congress Heights Service Center: 4049 South Capitol St., SW
Taylor Street Service Center: 1207 Taylor St., NW
Note: The Anacostia and Fort Davis Service Centers are temporarily closed

EBT Cards are being mailed out. If you need your card sooner or if it does not arrive by mail, you can pick up your card at the H Street office or 1649 Good Hope Rd. SE.

Due to Recertify for SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, or Alliance in DC?

SNAP and TANF recertifications started up again in March, 2021. You can recertify on the DHS website or on the DC Access app, or you can drop recertification documents off at a service center (but we caution against doing that).

Mid-certification for SNAP has also restarted. You can complete the form on the website or app, or mail in the document.

You will be sent a notice in the mail when it is time for you to recertify. If you need to update your mailing address, call the DHS Call Center at (202) 727-5355.

Medicaid and Alliance have been extended through at least September 26, 2021. There is no need to report any changes for these programs, or to recertify.

Was your Medicaid or Alliance Managed Care Organization (MCO) recently changed? Do you want to change to a different MCO?

Many people that previously received "straight Medicaid" have now been placed in an MCO.

Many people previously assigned to one MCO were moved to a different MCO.

Call 1-800-620-7802 to request a transfer to a different MCO.

Questions?

Questions about worker’s rights?
Call the Washington Lawyers Committee Workers’ Rights Clinic (202–319–1000)

Questions about unemployment benefits?
Call the Washington Lawyers Committee Workers’ Rights Clinic (202–319–1000) or the Legal Aid Society of DC (202–628–1161)

Other questions?
Call Bread for the City Legal Clinic at (202) 386–7616

Do You Have a Child in a DC Public School?

If your child qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch, you should receive Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) to get an additional amount of SNAP money for the 2020–2021 school year. This money is being distributed in three deposits this summer.

If your child was not receiving free or reduced-price lunch through the National School Lunch Program last year, but you think your child was eligible, contact your child’s school to apply.

For questions or if you have problems accessing P-EBT, call the P-EBT call center at 877-432-7328.

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