

ALERT DATE: April 22, 2020

This e-mail is being sent to professionals who are interested in receiving benefits updates regarding older adults and people with disabilities.

Hello! I have some good news to share regarding households with school aged-children who are eligible for free or reduced meals when school is in session! Yesterday, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) announced that Illinois has been approved to provide approximately 316,000 Illinois households with additional SNAP benefits in April and May. This will really benefit our clients that are grandparents raising grandchildren, relatives raising children and consumers raising children.

The USDA authorized and will fund the Illinois Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program, which will bring food benefits to all school-aged children who are eligible for free or reduced meals. The best part is that the additional benefits will be loaded to family Link cards automatically from April 20, 2020 through April 30, 2020. No action is needed!

You are probably wondering how much each household will receive aren't you? Well... here's the formula: benefits are calculated using a \$5.70 per day and per student calculation. Illinois will be issuing the benefits based on a total of 10 missed school days in March and 22 missed school days in April. May benefits will also be issued in the month of May. If my calculator is working correctly, that means \$182.40 per student (\$57 for March and \$125.40 for April). If the household has two students, they would receive an additional \$364.80 that will be loaded to the Link card in April. I do not know how many days are in the calculation for May so I can't provide that amount to you.

Don't worry, households that aren't participating in SNAP can get help! Households with school-aged children who are eligible for free or reduced meals when school is in session, but who do not currently receive SNAP benefits, will be able to submit a simplified application for P-EBT benefits as early as next week, using the ABE.Illinois.gov online portal or by completing a paper application which will be available at the IDHS website at dhs.state.il.us.

If you would like more background information about the additional benefits, please read the press release at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123952> .