

FOOD RESOURCES

Local – Taylor & Adams Counties

1. **Children:** Meals for all children 0-18
 - Bedford** – Drop offs on M, W, F 10am-11am (school parking lot, New Market Comm. Center, Blockton Comm. Hall, Gravity Comm. Center, Conway 4th & Broad St., corner of Goldenrod Hwy and Hwy 148)
 - Lenox** – call Jenn Miller (712-370-5397) or Liz Jessen (641-342-0841) to get added to the list
 - Southwest Valley** – call 641-418-0952 or email lunch@southwestvalley.org to get added to the list
2. **Food Banks** – Bedford: 712-523-3144, Lenox: 641-536-4442 Corning: 641-322-4096
3. **Meals for Older Adults (60+)** - Contact Connections Area Agency on Aging (800) 432-9209, their office is closed and people are working remotely. Stay on the line until someone answers and ask about meal delivery.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act This federal legislation allows for:

1. Increased benefits for current and newly eligible applicants
 - a. DHS will increase April and May Food Assistance benefits to the maximum allowable amount per household.
 - b. If a household is not already receiving the maximum amount for April and May, those additional benefits will be added to their EBT card with their normal monthly benefits.
2. Adjustment of Food Assistance eligibility requirements and benefits to address the loss of school lunch
 - a. DHS is working collaboratively with the Department of Education to research opportunities related to increased food insecurity for Iowa families who rely on school lunch programs.
 - b. DHS will share additional information as these efforts mature.

Food Assistance Auto-Recertification

- a. Food Assistance households who would normally have a recertification due in March, April, or May, have had their cases recertified for six months.
- b. A Notice of Decision will not be sent to households regarding this extension.

Suspension of Food Assistance Work Requirements

- a. The new legislation allows states to suspend Food Assistance work requirements, except in limited circumstances.
- b. Food Assistance recipients will **not** have benefits terminated for failure to comply with work requirements.

New Online Options to Purchase Food

- a. Amazon and Walmart now offer online options for Iowans using their Food Assistance EBT card to purchase food.
- b. This service is available statewide.
- c. Amazon will deliver to all Iowa ZIP codes.
- d. Walmart provides this service for all store locations that offer online grocery.
- e. DHS is exploring additional opportunities to expand this program to include other retailers.

Visit the retailers' websites to order groceries or get more information:

- [Amazon Information](#)
- [Amazon FAQ](#)
- [Walmart](#): Walmart website for specific stores will state: **NEW – This location offers delivery!** Or call or (800) 924-9206.

Food Assistance recipients will be able to use their benefits to purchase eligible food items but will not be able to use benefits to pay for service or delivery charges. For more information, please visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot>.

Emergency Food Assistance

- a. DHS requested an addendum to the state plan for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which increases access to food distribution to address food insecurity related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. Iowans who are in need of emergency assistance due to an income change are now eligible for TEFAP.
- c. Iowans who are in need of food should contact their local food bank to find TEFAP providers in their area.

Home-Delivered Meals

- a. On March 18, 2020, [DHS requested federal waivers](#) to expand home-delivered meals to certain Medicaid recipients. This will provide home-delivered meals for Iowa Medicaid members who are home-bound and for home- and community-based service (HCBS) waiver members if their waiver does not have meals as an allowable service.
- b. Also expanded homemaker services which allows someone to come into the home to prepare meals for HCBS waiver members.

For more information contact Matt Highland at 515-281-4848

or mhighla@dhs.state.ia.us. Visit dhs.iowa.gov for information on DHS and its programs.