

Transforming  
Lives

# Basic Food Forum

Community Services Division  
Department of Social and Health Services  
July 2021



# Community Services Office lobbies are closed

- Until the fall, all services are available remotely online at [Washington.Connection.org](http://Washington.Connection.org) or at 877-501-2233.
- Telephonic signature used for all applications and reviews.
- No EBT cards issued at the local offices except for clients with general delivery.
  - Masks are required.
- Drop boxes are still available.

# Pandemic EBT

- Summer Food Program for School-Aged Children: July 14-16
  - Students who received P-EBT as a child in school will receive a one-time, lump-sum Summer P-EBT benefit of \$375. Benefits will automatically go onto existing P-EBT cards in July 2021. This includes students who graduated in June 2021.
- Children under 6 Retro period October 2020 – March 2021: Planned for issuance beginning July 27.
- Children under 6 April to March 2021 + Summer P-EBT: Planned for issuance in August.
  - Children under age 6 who are part of a household active on Basic Food anytime in June, July or August 2021 will receive a one-time, lump-sum Summer P-EBT benefit of \$375. Benefits will automatically go onto existing P-EBT cards in August 2021.

# Pandemic EBT Reminders

- DSHS cannot replace P-EBT cards.
- P-EBT questions: 833-518-0282
- Farmers Market Benefit!

# Mid-Certification Review

- MCRs were suspended on April 23, 2020, due to the COVID-19 emergency.
- The current waiver for suspending MCRs expired June 30, 2021.
- MCR letters will also resume, starting on June 27, 2021 for assistance units with a July MCR due.
- Additionally, a Non-Receipt of Mid-Certification Review will be sent to clients on July 18, 2021 if they haven't completed their review timely.

# Child Tax Credit Payments

- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 includes a significant change to the Child Tax Credit that began issuing payments to families beginning July 15, 2021.
- Receiving these advanced payments of the Child Tax Credit is excluded as income for applicants and recipients of food and cash benefits and does not count as a resource.
- For Medicaid, this credit is excluded as income, and does not count as a resource for 12 months following the end of the month in which the COVID-19 public health emergency ends.

# TANF re-engagement

- Mandatory participation in WorkFirst to start again in late September 2021.
- Case managers will begin to reach out and re-establish contact with caseloads starting May 10.
- WorkFirst partner agencies have been notified.
- Letters will be sent out to clients.

# Cash Assistance Increased 15%

- TANF, SFA, RCA, PWA, CEAP increased 15% on July 1.
- Change letters will be sent mid-month.
- Clients will automatically receive the increase.



# Cash Assistance Increased 15%

<b>HH</b>	<b>Payment Standard</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>417</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>528</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>654</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>771</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>888</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>1009</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>1165</b>
<b>8*</b>	<b>1289</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>1416</b>
<b>10+</b>	<b>1539</b>

# NEW: Customer Connect

- New interactive voice response system.
- Front end of the Contact Center phone number.
- Allows customers to choose self-service or assisted service.

## FEATURES:

Verify case status, including benefit amounts, next benefit payment, benefit balances and when their next review is due.

# Questions?

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