

COVID19 & Public Benefits Update

July 23, 2020



SNAP Program Changes

Online purchasing with SNAP Benefits – *only Amazon and WalMart in Illinois at this time*

Work requirements for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) remain suspended

Emergency SNAP Allotments continue through July

SNAP Waivers starting to end

Recertification period extended 6 months for cases due to recertify March – June 2020

- Notices will be sent to cases with benefits due to end in July.
- Customers must respond and comply to continue receiving benefits

SNAP Interviews to resume with applications filed 07/01/20 and after

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)

Application deadline extended to **July 31, 2020** – Benefits will be retroactive to March

Must be enrolled in free/reduced school lunch through school district first

Non-SNAP households must complete ABE or Paper application
<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=124142>

Email applications to DHS.FCS.PEBT@Illinois.gov or mail to IDHS Central Scan Unit,
PO Box 19138, Springfield IL 62763-9138

Troubleshooting P-EBT

IDHS must verify that household is enrolled in the school lunch program

- If unable to data match with ISBE, IDHS is manually verifying with school districts
- This has resulted in delays in applications but they are working through

Some CEP households have seen incorrect denials

Email DHS.FCS.PEBT@Illinois.gov to follow up



COVID-19 Health Coverage

COVID-19 Testing covered for all IL residents – regardless of citizenship/immigration status – through IDPH

COVID-19 Treatment covered by Emergency Medicaid for immigrants who are income eligible but do not have a qualifying immigration status

- <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=124001>

NOTE: COVID-19 related coverage not subject to public charge

COVID-19 Coverage, cont.

COVID-19 Treatment includes emergency room and inpatient hospital care

COVID-19 Treatment may include other services (post-hospitalization recovery at home or in rehab setting) but clear guidance has not been issued yet.

Providers have other sources to receive reimbursement for care provided to patients, regardless of immigration status, who have no other source of coverage/payment

COVID-19 UI Relief

Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC)

- Provides \$600 extra UI per week for current recipients – **through July 25**
- Budgeted (counts) for SNAP, but not for any cash or medical benefit program.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

- For traditional UI recipients
- Allows 13 extra weeks of UI for people who had run out of 26-week maximum, for a total of 39 weeks
- Paired with PUC to provide extra \$600 for 13 weeks through July
- Budgeted same as regular UI for medical and SNAP, but exempt for all cash programs

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

- Emergency UI for those usually left out of traditional UI, either because of type of work or they didn't work enough hours
- Claims accepted starting May 11 but pmts retroactive to Jan. 27
- Eligible for 39 weeks but pmts will stop 12/31/20
- Budgeted same as regular UI for medical and SNAP, but exempt for all cash programs

IDES Callback System

Callback model started July 9, 2020

Rather than wait on hold – callers may select to receive a call when they are “next in line”

Can only have one pending callback scheduled – Caller ID should show 800-244-5631

Claimant
Services Center
800-244-5631

Benefit Payment
Control
800-814-0513

Illinois Job Link
877-342-7533

Employer
Hotline
800-247-4984

State Websites

IDHS Coronavirus webpage

<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123118>

HFS Coronavirus webpage

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

IDES website

<https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/default.aspx>

Healthcare Expansion for Low-Income Immigrant Seniors

Healthy Illinois
July 2020





**Quality, affordable health care coverage accessible
to all people in Illinois.**

**Cobertura médica de calidad y accesible para todxs
las personas de Illinois.**

VICTORY!

*Illinois to Become FIRST State in the Country to
Pass Coverage for Low-Income
Undocumented Seniors*



Stay Tuned as we continue
fighting for healthcare for all
#HealthyIllinoisForAll



- Governor Pritzker signed the Illinois State Budget on 6/10 including funding and language to authorize health coverage for low-income immigrant seniors (including undocumented seniors) under a **state-funded Medicaid program**.
- Illinois will be the **first state in the country** to provide coverage for low-income seniors regardless of their immigration status



Where is the Healthcare Expansion?

Individuals are **not yet able to sign up for this new program** as we are waiting for further guidance from the State of Illinois on the following:

- When this new program will begin enrollment and when coverage will start;
- Benefits and coverage included;
- Application process.



Program Requirements

In order to qualify, the person must:

1. Be age 65 or over;
1. Not be eligible for Medicare or traditional Medicaid;
1. Have one of the following immigration statuses:
 - Undocumented;
 - Other immigration status but **has not completed the waiting period**, including:
 - Legal permanent resident that has had their green card for less than five years;
 - Someone with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) who has not met the one year waiting period;



Program Requirements (Cont.)

4. Live in Illinois (have proof such as a house, rental lease, utility bills, etc.)
5. Have a household income that is at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Line.
*if you have income over 100% FPL and have recent medical bills or receipts, you might qualify to get a medical card to pay for some of your medical care.

Family Size	100% FPL Income	
1	\$12,760 per year	\$1,063 per month
2	\$17,240 per year	\$1,437 per month
3	\$21,720 per year	\$1,810 per month
4	\$26,200 per year	\$2,183 per month

Sources: [2020 Income Standards for Illinois AABD](#) & [US. HHS Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)



Public Charge

Enrollment in this new Medicaid program **does not count towards public charge**. The program is funded exclusively by the state and therefore is **excluded** from the public charge test.

*For additional information or if you have questions about public charge, please email pifillinois@povertylaw.org or visit <https://protectingimmigrantfamiliesillinois.org/about-us>.



Ways to Help Advance Implementation

- **Case Studies:** Seniors with problems during COVID, long recovery, mixed status families, families with essential workers
- **Estimate Patient/Community Roster of Potentially Eligible Folks:** guess-timates of numbers of senior eligible for future advocacy
- **Testimonies** from impacted seniors or family members





Stay Tuned for Updates!

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Questions? Contact Info

- If you have a question, please “chat” it via the chat icon on the bottom of your screen or email Kristin Hartsaw.

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