



SNAP Benefits Update: Georgia Upgrades Programs to Allow Grocery Delivery

Georgia is now one of the 36 states that allows citizens who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to order groceries online. The United States Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) approved Georgia’s plan for online purchasing earlier this month. The plan designates **Amazon and Walmart** as the only eligible retailers for the online purchasing program serving SNAP recipients.

“People who receive SNAP benefits should have the opportunity to shop for food the same way more and more Americans shop for food by ordering and paying for groceries online. As technology advances, it is important for SNAP to advance too, so we can ensure the same shopping options are available for both non-SNAP and SNAP recipients,” U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said.

Conduent, the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) vendor recently worked with the Georgia Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) to coordinate system testing for Amazon’s and Walmart’s online ordering system. The vendor reviewed the payment processes and confirmed that both met the requirements for processing SNAP transactions online.

“We are excited and it gives us great pride to be able to provide this premium experience for customers that really need it,” said DFCS Director Tom Rawlings.

Not only does this move help meet the needs of current pandemic social distancing guidelines, an added benefit is the tremendous assistance it will provide for vulnerable populations who would benefit from greater access

8/21/20

to grocery delivery services. In a time of uncertainty, DFCS customers experiencing food insecurity will now have the same privileges as others who enjoy the convenience of grocery delivery.

MINI-ALERT: EIP payments!!

Have you received your Economic Impact Payment for your qualifying child? If not, you will need to fill out [the non-filer tax form on the IRS web site](#) to provide information about your child by **September 30, 2020**. You will likely get the payments in October 2020.

Filling out the non-filer tax form can be tricky, but **help is available**. People who get stuck can call the IRS's hotline at (800) 919-9835, or contact their local [Low Income Taxpayer Clinic](#). For those unable to access the Non-Filers tool, they may submit a simplified paper return following the procedures described in this [FAQ](#) on IRS.gov.

NOTE: low- and moderate-income workers and working families eligible to receive special tax benefits, such as the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) or [Child Tax Credit](#), cannot use this tool. They will need to file a regular return by using IRS Free File or by another method.

Though most Americans have already received their EIP's, the IRS reminds people with little or no income and who are not required to file tax returns that **they remain eligible** to receive an EIP. This includes people with incomes typically below \$24,400 for married couples, and \$12,200 for singles. Also included are couples and individuals who are experiencing homelessness. People can qualify, even if they don't work or have no earned income. But you must file by October 15! Anyone who misses the October 15 deadline will need to wait until next year and claim their EIP as a credit on their 2020 federal income tax return.

Spouse's past-due child support. The IRS is actively working to resolve cases where a portion or all of an individual's payment was taken and applied to their spouse's past-due child support. People in this situation do not need to take any action. The IRS will automatically issue the portion of the EIP that was applied to the other spouse's debt.

Spouses of deceased taxpayers. Some EIPs to spouses of deceased taxpayers were cancelled because of a rule change. The IRS is actively working on a systemic solution to reissue payments to surviving spouses of deceased taxpayers who were unable to deposit the initial EIPs paid to the deceased and surviving spouse. For EIPs that have been cancelled or returned, the surviving spouse will automatically receive their share of the EIP.



Like us on Facebook @georgialeghalservices and stay informed!

GLSP does not discriminate in the provision of services based on age, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status.