



Virginia Receives Federal Approval to Replace SNAP Benefits for Victims of Fraud

RICHMOND, VA (July 10, 2023) - The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) was approved by the United States Department of Agriculture's [Food and Nutrition Service](#) to replace certain [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP) benefits stolen from clients' [Electronic Benefits Transfer](#) (EBT) cards beginning July 17, 2023.

Under the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023](#), Virginia can use federal funding to replace certain SNAP benefits **stolen between Oct. 1, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2024** through card cloning, skimming and other fraudulent methods. Eligible SNAP benefits may also include Disaster SNAP and emergency allotments.

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer benefits, also known as P-EBT benefits, established by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, are not approved to be replaced in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

VDSS urges SNAP customers to take preventive measures to protect their funds, whenever possible. This includes changing their card PIN often, examining card swiping devices for any signs of tampering, and not responding to unsolicited texts, emails or phone calls concerning their EBT account. VDSS has a [dedicated webpage](#) with more information on how customers can help protect themselves from EBT scams.

Virginia households that become victim to EBT scams should contact their [local department of social services](#) and fill out all required paperwork within 30 days of discovering that benefits were stolen. Upon validation of the claim, replacement funds will be issued within 10 days of the reported loss. Households are limited to two replacement issuances for stolen benefits in the federal fiscal year.

Visit www.dss.virginia.gov/EBTscam to access the funds replacement form and find more information about SNAP replacement funding.

###

About the Virginia Department of Social Services

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), one of the Commonwealth's largest government agencies, is comprised of approximately 2,000 state staff who proudly serve alongside more than 10,000 employees of 120 local departments of social services and community action agencies to deliver critical social services to Virginia's most vulnerable citizens. VDSS is committed to ensuring Virginians have access to the high-quality human services and resources needed to enhance their

individual and collective well-being, and shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities. The agency provides a wide range of services and resources in the areas of food and energy assistance, foster care and adoption, child support, and abuse and neglect prevention, among others. For more information, visit dss.virginia.gov.