

Attention: SNAP EBT Retailers

SNAP EBT Chip and Tap Cards are Coming Soon

You are receiving this message because you are a SNAP authorized retailer. SNAP EBT chip and tap cards will be rolling out soon in various states. As states plan to add chip and tap functionality to SNAP EBT cards, it is imperative that retailer point of sale devices be updated to successfully read these cards to ensure SNAP cardholders can redeem their SNAP benefits at their store.

These cards:

- Will not work at retailer point-of-sale (POS) without the appropriate updates.
- Will have a magnetic stripe and retailers must ensure that their POS system allows for SNAP EBT chip cards to “fallback” to magnetic stripe until SNAP EBT chip cards are fully supported on their POS device(s)/system. This is referred to as Empty Candidate List (ECL) fallback.

About SNAP EBT Chip Card Payment

- As more states begin to issue SNAP EBT chip cards, retailers must ensure that SNAP cardholder benefits can successfully be used for purchases at all SNAP authorized stores nationwide.
- Though strongly encouraged, you are not required to accept EBT tap payment at this time.
- Chip and tap transactions still require cardholder PIN entry at the point-of-sale.

Steps You Should Take Immediately

1. Contact Your Point-of-Sale (POS) Service Provider TODAY to ensure that your POS system will allow SNAP EBT chip cards to “fallback” to magnetic stripe transactions. More details for your POS provider are found here: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt/modernization>
2. Ask your POS Service Provider to update your POS to fully support SNAP EBT chip cards.
3. Tell your POS Provider that the SNAP EBT chip cards will use:
 - Standard EMV chips
 - Both contact-only and dual-interface
 - New EBT Application Identifier (AID): A0000000044542
 - 220 service code on Track II of the magstripe
 - If your POS service provider needs more information about supporting SNAP EBT chip cards, tell them to contact their Third-Party Processor (TPP)

Food and Nutrition Service, Braddock Metro Center, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Steps You Should Take After Confirming or Enabling ECL Fallback on Your POS device/system

- FNS is requesting retailers report successful ECL fallback at the SNAP EBT Modernization Technical Assistance Center (SEMTAC) website: <http://www.semtac.org/ECLReadinessCheck>

Steps You Should Take After your POS device/system Is Updated to Fully Accept SNAP EBT Chip Cards

- FNS is requesting retailers report their ability to fully accept chip enabled EBT cards at the SNAP EBT Modernization Technical Assistance Center (SEMTAC) website: <http://www.semtac.org/FullChipReadinessCheck>

Note on Reporting:

The intent of collecting this information is so that FNS can determine that SNAP households have access to their benefits once chip cards are distributed. While the information may be shared with States that are working toward EBT chip/tap card implementation, individual retailer information will not be publicly distributed or displayed in any way.

Resources

For more information, please visit:

- SNAP EBT Modernization Technical Assistance Center (SEMTAC) FAQ: <https://www.nationalgrocers.org/semtac/general-information-and-faq/>
- SNAP EBT Chip Card Technical Resources: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt/modernization/chip-resources>
- SNAP EBT Modernization: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt/modernization>

Join the USDA EBT Card Industry Forum and have a voice in the future of EBT modernization!

- This industry forum allows groups associated with the USDA's issuance, processing and redemption of SNAP benefits to discuss issues around upgrading SNAP EBT cards to chip Card, as well as the associated updates around mobile NFC payments, SNAP Online Purchasing and SNAP Electronic Healthy Food Incentive Program (eHIP).
- Members includes USDA, State Agencies, Retailers, Card Processors, and others.
- If you are interested in participating, submit a request at the following website: <https://x9.org/usda-ebt-card-industry-forum/>