

Virtual Press Packet: SNAP Emergency Benefits

Nebraska Resident Perspectives

These quotes were compiled from Nebraskans who have signed [Nebraska Appleseed's petition](#) asking Governor Ricketts to continue accepting SNAP emergency allotments. They detail some of the firsthand experiences of affected individuals, community members, and direct service agencies.

“Trying to find funds or resources to provide food for a family is extremely hard. It's an additional worry which is only aggravating an already difficult situation.” - **Beaver Crossing Resident**

“I work for a nonprofit that serves many of the most vulnerable children and families. Over the summer there were many resources for families experiencing food insecurities however many of those temporary resources are no longer available. With OPS being virtual, many children are left without access to food and, even if there are resources to obtain food, many families are without transportation to get to a specific pick up spot on a specific day/time. Extended pandemic SNAP benefits are not a handout, they are essential to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of families and, most importantly, children who cannot fend for themselves. It seems common sense to extend these benefits and I urge the Governor to consider this!” - **Bellevue Resident**

“Jesus said to feed the people. As a Christian, it is your duty to support Pandemic Food Support for vulnerable Nebraskans.” - **Bellevue Resident**

“I'm only able to work 32 hours a week. My son has a rare mitochondrial disorder. At this point we are either getting groceries or paying rent and utilities. Please help us until the pandemic is over.” - **Bellevue Resident**

“Jobs are still not full hours opened. I've lost my car due to non-payment and am also behind on rent. Now I have no job, am unemployed and out of food. Living out in the country and looking for a job is hard the food helps my kids” - **Bennet Resident**

“I'm a single mom of 3 teenagers and having them do school online makes them have to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner at home. My income is not enough!” - **Bennington Resident**

“My daughter is a single parent of a special needs child. She needs help. No one in the United States should be hungry. Think if this was your family. This is unacceptable.” - **Bennington Resident**

“I am on a fixed income; I get \$800 a month. It's hard to pay my bills and try to decide to buy food or medication, so I need more than \$30 a month. You try living on what I get.” - **Central City Resident**

"I was let go from my job during COVID. My unemployment is about to run out and with unemployment and child support I get 16.00 of SNAP benefits. I'm struggling a little now but as winter approaches it will be a real struggle. Please extend the emergency SNAP benefits." - **Falls City Resident**

"Food insecurity in NE was a problem even before the pandemic. I have volunteered for years to cook meals for people in the Grand Island area on Sunday nights and holidays and we generally served 150 people at a minimum. I don't think you realize how many people are desperately in need of food. They have to choose between rent and hunger. That's not Nebraska nice." - **Grand Island Resident**

"I'm starving" - **Lincoln Resident**

"I cannot afford to buy food for my son and I. I do have a full time job but I also have bills to pay and sometimes I have to decide if it's better to have a roof over our heads or if we need to eat. We need both and until, you sir, have to explain that to your child, you have no idea what that can do to a person. So yes, we need the help in Nebraska. Show us that you care about us. Thanks." - **Lincoln Resident**

"We are getting less benefits since my husband is back at work but we are extremely behind on bills and cannot spend the money on food. Another month or two would really help us to be able to catch up and have food for our family." - **Lincoln Resident**

"People being hungry should never be the normal, much less the new normal. You have the ability to feed hungry people and you're choosing not to. You do not represent those of us in Nebraska who value human life and experience. Please find your humanity." - **Lincoln Resident**

"Mr. Ricketts, I am a single mother who works a full time job and a part time job but I get no child support which makes it very hard to pay my bills, daycare, after school program and much more. I have never struggled to put food on the table before, and I must say that the PEBT was a blessing. I actually could buy healthy food for my children, which is always the most expensive. I would like this to continue so we can lighten the load of financial stress and not have to worry about healthy eating. Please help people like myself who work hard but still struggle to make ends meet." - **Lincoln Resident**

"I am a single mother of 6, I am on an unpaid maternity leave, and you are taking food away from my children. My federal taxes I paid last year are now going to feed every other state but Nebraska. I will not be voting for you or any other Republican in the state races again." - **Lincoln Resident**

"I am a SNAP user and the extra money has been putting food on my table. I have stopped going to the food net sites because of the number of people using them. One of the ones I used

has moved to an area where it is easier for people with cars to use. I do not have a car.” - **Lincoln Resident**

“The people need fed more than we need go big red!” - **Lincoln Resident**

“Those dollars can help individuals, who are already struggling financially, put food on the table and shift income to cover other needs. It will also put more dollars into our grocery stores and food producers, contributing to our economies. Not to mention the federal government is covering the entire cost of the SNAP payments.” - **Oakland Resident**

“I cannot live on \$12 a month for food. The Covid-19 in Omaha is above 10%. We are far from returning to normal. Please help us that need help, all the other states are still helping their people.” - **Omaha Resident**

“I'm a 66 year-old widow with MS. I live on a very fixed income. Prior to COVID, I received rides to pantries to help assist me with food through the month. The extra SNAP benefits helped me immensely, as I am no longer able to chance riding with people to pantries due to my susceptibility of getting COVID. So, with only \$16 a month SNAP and no pantries, it is pretty stressful.” - **Omaha Resident**

[Nebraska SNAP Emergency Allotments Petition](#)

This Nebraska Appleseed petition is circulating with the goal of showing Governor Ricketts that after painful months of enduring the COVID-19 pandemic, “normal” is still far off. The petition will circulate through Sunday, September 27 and be sent to the Governor shortly thereafter.

Interview Request Contact Information

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