

Restaurant Meal Program

Frequently Asked Questions – EBT Recipients

Question	Answer
What is the Restaurant Meal Program?	The Restaurant Meal Program (RMP) allows elderly, disabled, and homeless Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipients and their spouses to use their EBT benefits to purchase prepared meals at participating restaurants using their EBT card.
What can the Restaurant Meal Program do for me?	Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipients may use their benefits to purchase prepared food in certain authorized restaurants. Per FNS regulations, all group members must be either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elderly (60 years of age or over).• Disabled (receives disability or blindness payments or receives disability retirement benefits from a governmental agency because of a disability considered permanent).• Homeless.• A spouse of a FAP recipient who is eligible for the program.
Do all members of a FAP group need to be eligible in order to participate in RMP?	Yes, per FNS regulations, all FAP group members must be either elderly, disabled, homeless, or the spouse of a FAP recipient who is eligible for the program.
How do I know if I am eligible for RMP?	You can log into your MIBridges account to see if you have a message indicating eligibility to participate in RMP. If you think you should be eligible, but don't see a message saying that you are, please contact your caseworker.
Do I have to apply for the Restaurant Meal Program?	No, an application is not required. If you are listed as elderly, disabled, or homeless in your MDHHS case file, then your Bridge card is already set up to be used at restaurants that have been approved to participate in RMP.
Will I receive more benefits when I participate in the Restaurant Meal Program?	No, participating in the Restaurant Meal Program does not change your benefit amount.
How do I find out if a restaurant is participating in the program?	A restaurant is participating in the program if an EBT sign is displayed on the door or window. To find a list of participating restaurants CLICK HERE . We are working to enroll restaurants as quickly as possible, so if you do not see a restaurant in your area that is participating, please continue to check the list. More restaurants will be added as they complete enrollment in RMP.
After purchasing a meal, do I get a sales receipt showing my benefit balance?	Yes, your sales receipt will show the cost of your meal and your EBT benefit balance.
Will I be charged tax or tip if I purchase a meal with my EBT card?	No, the participating restaurants are not allowed to charge tax under the Restaurant Meal Program. EBT cards cannot be used for tips. If you would like to leave a tip, you will need to use another payment method.

Can I use my FAP benefits to pay for delivery fees?	No, EBT benefits cannot be used to cover delivery fees. Delivery fees must be charged and paid for separately.
Can I use my FAP benefits to purchase alcohol?	No, you cannot use your FAP benefits to purchase alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, or any non-food items.
How do I check my EBT benefit balance?	Your EBT benefit balance will be printed on your receipt if you used your EBT card. You can also check your EBT balance by calling Customer Service at 888-678-8914 or by visiting www.ebtEDGE.com .
If my EBT benefit balance is not enough to purchase a meal, can I use another payment method to cover the difference between my EBT balance and the cost of the meal?	Yes. You must inform the cashier that you will use a mixed transaction (EBT and debit/credit/cash combined). Before you buy a meal, check your last receipt or MIBridge Customer Service at 888-678-8914 or by visiting www.ebtEDGE.com .
Need more information?	Email MDHHS-RestaurantMealProgram@michigan.gov or reach out to your MDHHS specialist.

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