



Accepting Bridge Cards (EBT) Bridge Card Process and Rules

The Bridge Card (SNAP/EBT) Process:

1. Customers can visit the Market Information table (located between the Market Pavilion) to obtain Three Rivers Farmers' Market Tokens (\$1 each). There is no fee or cost to the customer for this service, nor to the vendors.

2. Customers will then come to your booth and purchase eligible goods.

NOTE: The law prohibits giving cash in exchange for EBT. Please round purchases to the nearest whole dollar or adjust product quantities accordingly.

3. Vendors return Tokens to the Market Information table and receive a receipt from the Three Rivers Farmers' Market Manager, Melissa Bliss, or one of the authorized market employees.

4. Vendors will be reimbursed weekly by the City of Three Rivers at the market, or a check will be mailed if needed.

Vendor Instructions on accepting EBT:

- **NO CHANGE** will be made for use of the token. Vendors must work with the customers to create an even dollar amount for purchases. Partial dollar amounts at the end of the transaction are the customers' responsibility.
- **Under this program, you can sell:** vegetables, fruit, dairy products, meat, eggs, bread, jam, pickles, and pastries. Also, seeds or plants that produce food can be sold (i.e. tomato or parsley plants). Flowers, shrubs, and other non-edible plants cannot be purchased with paper scrip.
- **Under this Program, you cannot sell:** Hot foods, cut flowers, decorative plants, pet food, or non-food items.
- **It is ILLEGAL to exchange cash for SNAP benefits.**
- Vendors will not exchange tokens for US currency or any non-eligible product.
- Vendors must post, in a visible location, the furnished Bridge Card sign that identifies the vendor's table as an authorized Bridge Card vendor.
- \$1 tokens will be worth the same as \$1 in US currency. All products will be priced the same for Bridge Card customers as they are for non-Bridge Card customers.
- Bridge Card customers must pay for their purchase at the time of sale.
- Tokens shall be turned in to the Market Manager prior to the beginning of the next market day.
- Token reimbursement will be issued when tokens are turned in to the Market Manager and will be distributed by the Market Manager or another authorized City employee.



Vendor Agreement for Accepting Bridge Cards (EBT)

The Three Rivers Farmers' Market is now accepting food assistance benefits (EBT/food stamps) in the form of the Michigan Bridge Card, which is processed and paid through the City of Three Rivers. Participation by eligible vendors is required.

- I agree to follow all of the rules as explained on the attached process/rule sheet.
- I agree to follow all policies of the Three Rivers Farmers' Market, as well as those of the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS), who administers the Bridge Card program.
- I understand that if market staff observe or receive evidence of my failure to abide by this agreement, the market will immediately suspend or terminate my approval to accept food assistance benefits, and the offense may result in a fine and/or forfeiture of my table at the market.
- I understand that I will not be reimbursed for scrip collected incorrectly.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to inform my family and employees of these rules before they sell at the market on behalf of my farm or business.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Farm/Business

Market Manager

Date

Melissa Bliss

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a USDA nutrition assistance program administered by Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The program provides monthly food benefits for eligible participants to purchase approved food items (any food or food product for human use or seeds and plants for use in a home garden to produce food for personal use) at approved outlets. This program was formerly known as "food stamps".

Customers participating in the program use a plastic card similar to a bank debit card to buy goods. The card used in Michigan shows the Mackinac Bridge and is called a "Bridge Card." When shoppers use their card to make a purchase, the funds are transferred from the shopper's food account to the retailer's (Texas Township Farmers' Market) account. The customer does this at the Market Information table, located at the end of the east wing of the pavilion.