

## The **DIRECTION CARD**

*A safe and easy way to use  
your food stamp benefits.*

**CLIENT  
ADDRESS**

Before using your new Ohio Direction Card,  
you must call Customer Service at 1-866-386-3071  
to select your new PIN and activate your card.

*Follow the easy directions. You will need your:*

- Card number (16 digits on the front of your card)
- Social security number
- Date of birth

*You must select a 4-digit PIN to use your card.*

### **DIRECTION CARD** Customer Service

 1-866-386-3071

Call 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week if:

- Your card is lost or stolen.
- Someone is using your card without your approval.
- Your card does not work.
- You need to know your food stamp balance and you cannot find your last store receipt.
- You have questions about using your card.

## DO NOT THROW THIS CARD AWAY!

*Each and every month your benefits  
will be added to this card.*



### To use your new card:

- Sign the back of your card
- Call 1-866-386-3071 to select a 4-digit PIN
- Select a PIN that is easy to remember
- Memorize your PIN
- Do not write your PIN on the card or anything you carry with you
- If you forget your PIN, call 1-866-386-3071 and select a new PIN

## READ THIS FIRST - Changes in how you get your Food Stamp benefits starting March 27, 2006

### *Important information about your new blue-and-silver Ohio Direction Card*

- Sunday, March 26, 2006 – This is the last day to use your green Ohio Direction Card. You may use it until 11:59PM on Sunday (just prior to mid-night on Sunday).
- Monday, March 27, 2006 – If you will receive benefits for April, your April benefits will be available any time Monday using your new blue-and-silver Ohio Direction Card.
- Wednesday, March 29, 2006 – If you have any benefits left on your green Ohio Direction Card, we will automatically transfer those remaining benefits to your new blue-and-silver Ohio Direction Card account by 6:00AM Wednesday morning.
- Starting May 1, 2006, and every month there after, we will automatically add your benefits to your new blue-and-silver Ohio Direction Card every month. We will add benefits on your usual issuance day, even if that day falls on a weekend or holiday. You no longer need to load the benefits at a store or JFS County Office.
- You must call Customer Service to select a 4-digit PIN for your new blue-and-silver Ohio Direction Card. Your current 5-digit PIN will not work with your new blue-and-silver card. You can call Customer Service at 1-866-386-3071.

The Ohio **DIRECTION CARD**  
has a new look!



**Customer Service**  
☎ 1-866-386-3071

# The ***DIRECTION CARD***

---

Ohio

Electronic

Benefit

Transfer (EBT)



*A safe and easy way to use  
your food stamp benefits.*

**Customer Service**

**☎ 1-866-386-3071**

---

**24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week**

**[www.ebt.acs-inc.com](http://www.ebt.acs-inc.com)**

# *Welcome to the Ohio EBT program!*

## What is the Ohio EBT Program?

EBT stands for Electronic Benefits Transfer. Your Ohio Direction Card is a debit card. This means you cannot use more benefits than you are eligible to receive. Your benefits are automatically deposited once a month into an account just for you. You can access your benefits at almost all grocery stores using your Ohio Direction Card and your secret 4-digit PIN.



Before using your new Ohio Direction Card please read this booklet closely. The information is designed to help answer any questions you have about your new Ohio Direction Card.

## Obtaining Benefits

### How do I obtain my benefits?

Your food stamp benefits are automatically deposited in your Ohio Direction Card account on the same day each month. You will need to check with your county office to find out which day you receive your benefits.

If the day you receive your benefits for that month happens to be on a weekend or holiday, your benefits are still available on that day.

Use the same card every month. **DO NOT throw your card away.** You can only use the amount of benefits you are eligible to receive. If you try to spend more than you have available in your account the transaction will be denied. If this happens, you must put some items back or pay the difference with cash. If you do not use all of your food stamp benefits during the month, they stay in your account and are added to your next month's benefits.

# Ohio Direction Card

## How do I use my Ohio Direction Card to shop?

You can use your Ohio Direction Card at all grocery stores that display the Ohio Direction Card sticker. After you have completed your grocery shopping, tell the cashier you are using your Ohio Direction Card and the cashier will ring up your purchase.



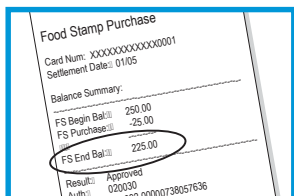
If you make a purchase in a different state, look for the Quest® logo.



Most grocery stores in Ohio accept the Ohio Direction Card. If you are not sure, check with the store clerk or the customer service desk.

**NOTE:** Not all stores use the same type of EBT equipment. Follow the cashier's directions on the screen.

- You or the cashier swipes your card through the machine.
- The cashier enters the amount of the purchase. On some machines the total automatically appears. Check the total to be sure it is correct.
- **YOU** must enter your secret 4-digit PIN on the machines PIN pad. **Never tell the cashier or anyone else your secret PIN. Never ask the cashier to enter your PIN for you.**
- The machine prints a receipt with your purchase amount and the amount of benefits you have left in your account.
- Remember to take your card and your receipt with you when you leave.
- Save your receipt so that you know your balance the next time you go shopping.



## What is a PIN?

- PIN stands for Personal Identification Number.
- You must have a 4-digit PIN to use your Ohio Direction Card.
- To select a PIN and activate your card, you need to call Customer Service and follow the instructions. You will need your:
  - Card Number
  - Social Security Number
  - Birth Date
- Always choose a PIN that is easy for you to remember, but hard for someone else to figure out if they find your card.
- Do not use numbers from your address or phone number. If your card is lost or stolen, these numbers would be easy for someone to figure out.
- Memorize your PIN. Do not write your PIN on anything you carry with you.
- If you forget your PIN call Customer Service and select a new PIN before you go to the store.
- If you enter the wrong PIN at the store the machine will deny your transaction. After four wrong PIN attempts your card will not work until the next day. You must call Customer Service to select a new PIN.

## What happens if the store's EBT machine is not working?

If the store's EBT machine is not working, you may still be able to use your card.

OFFLINE FOOD STAMP VOUCHER		
<small>Important! Vouchers must be entered or dated on the POS device within 15 days of customer sale or funds will not be reimbursed.</small>		
<input type="checkbox"/> EBT CARD NUMBER <input type="checkbox"/> DATE (MM/DD/YYYY) <input type="checkbox"/> AUTHORIZATION <input type="checkbox"/> AMOUNT		<b>1234567</b>  PRINT CARDHOLDER NAME _____  CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE _____ <small>In signing this voucher, I declare that food stamp funds are available for the full amount of this transaction.</small>
<small>REASON: <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Party Processor Down <input type="checkbox"/> Store Terminal Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Line Problem <input type="checkbox"/> Host Computer Down <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Internet <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase <input type="checkbox"/> Refund</small> Store FNS Auth Number _____ Store Name _____ Store Address _____ Store City/State/Zip Code _____ Store Supervisor/Clerk Signature _____ <small>Food Stamp regulations prohibit representation of this voucher by order if once authorization is denied.</small>		

The cashier can use a paper voucher and call the Retailer Customer Service number to get a telephone approval for your purchase. Next:

- The cashier fills out the voucher. The cashier will need some information from you such as your name and your card number to complete the voucher.
- Once the cashier has completed the voucher and obtained an approval, you must sign the voucher form.
- Make sure the amount charged to your account is correct.
- The cashier gives you a copy of the voucher.
- Keep the voucher copy for your records.

**NOTE:** Some stores that don't have the EBT machine, like a farmer's market, may also use paper vouchers.

## What if my Ohio Direction Card won't work?

There are a few reasons your card might not work:

- The magnetic stripe on the back of the card may be damaged.
- You have entered your PIN incorrectly four times and your card is "locked."
- You have tried to spend more than you have available on your Ohio Direction Card.
- If your card does not work, call Customer Service at 1-866-386-3071.

## Customer Service



## When should I call Customer Service?

- Call Customer service immediately if your Ohio Direction Card is lost or stolen.
- If your Ohio Direction Card is damaged and you need a new one. Customer Service deactivates your damaged card and issues a request for a new card to be sent to you.
- If you can't find your last receipt, you can call Customer Service or go to [www.ebt.acs-inc.com](http://www.ebt.acs-inc.com) to get your food stamp balance. Customer Service can also give you a list of your last 10 transactions.
- If you forget or want to change your PIN, you must call Customer Service and follow the PIN selection instructions.
- Anytime you have questions or need help with your card, call Customer Service.

*Customer Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.*

## Security

### How do I protect my Ohio Direction Card?

- **DO NOT** expose your card to heat or anything magnetic such as TV's, microwaves or other electronics.
- **DO NOT** bend your card.
- **DO NOT** let the magnetic stripe on the back of the card get scratched or damaged. Your card will not work if this happens.



### How do I protect my PIN?

- **NEVER** tell anyone your secret PIN.
- **DO NOT** write your PIN on your card or card sleeve.
- **DO NOT** write your PIN on anything you carry with you where someone could find it if your purse/wallet is lost or stolen.

### How do I protect my food stamp benefits?

- If your card is lost or stolen call Customer Service immediately. When entering your secret PIN on the PIN pad, be sure no one else can see what number you are entering. If someone else knows your PIN and uses your benefits, your benefits **will not** be replaced.
- If you think someone else knows your secret PIN call Customer Service to choose a new PIN.

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Customer Service

 1-866-386-3071

24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week

[www.ebt.acs-inc.com](http://www.ebt.acs-inc.com)




## The ***DIRECTION CARD*** Using your Card at the Store

*To use your Ohio Direction Card at the grocery store follow these steps:*

- ❶ Know your balance before you go grocery shopping. Check your last receipt for the balance or call Customer Service at 1-866-386-3071. The amount remaining on your card is all you can spend.
- ❷ Most grocery stores in Ohio accept the Ohio Direction Card.
  - Look for the Ohio Direction Card logo where you shop.
  - If shopping outside of Ohio, look for the Quest logo.
  - If you are not sure if the store accepts the Ohio Direction Card, ask the clerk before you begin shopping.
- ❸ Shop for your groceries and take them to the check out lane.
- ❹ Hand your Ohio Direction Card to the clerk or swipe your card through the machine.
- ❺ Check to make sure the total amount entered is correct.
- ❻ Enter your secret 4-digit PIN on the PIN pad.
- ❼ The machine prints a receipt showing your beginning balance, the amount you spent and the amount you still have available. Take the receipt with you.
- ❽ Always keep your receipt. The next time you go shopping you can check your receipt for your available balance.

***DIRECTION CARD*** Customer Service

 1-866-386-3071