MarketLink

Grant program to help farmers accept SNAP/EBT cards

Whitney Butler Regional Representative



What is MarketLink?

• MarketLink was first developed in 2013 for the USDA SNAP Equipment Grant for Farmers & Farmers' Markets

• MarketLink provides:

- Technical assistance with the USDA SNAP Retailer Application
- SNAP/EBT Point of Sale (POS) equipment for Direct Marketing Farmers and Farmers' Markets







MarketLink Partnerships

National Association of Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (NAFMNP)



USDA – Food & Nutrition Services (FNS)

NDG

Novo Dia Group, creators of TotilPay Go (SNAP Point of Sale App)



Benefits of Accepting SNAP/EBT

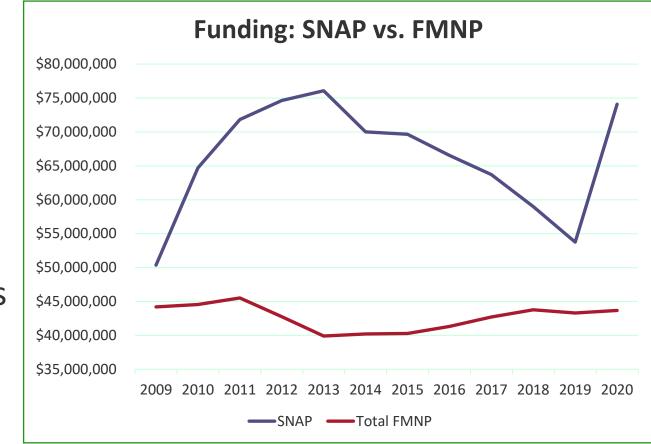




Why Accept SNAP?

\$100+ billion program

- Less than 0.12% is spent with farmers or farmers' markets
- Excellent companion program to WIC and Seniors FMNP
 - SNAP expands # of customers AND sellable products





SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

• Who is eligible?

- Individuals qualify based on income and household factors
- Majority are low-income working families and the elderly
- 41.5 million Americans; 200,300 KS residents received SNAP in 2021

• What are the eligible foods?

• Fruits, vegetables, meats, fish, poultry, dairy, eggs, baked goods, processed foods, honey, cider, juices, herbs, plants & seeds that produce food

• What are the ineligible foods?

 Non-food products, wine and alcohol products, hot foods, foods meant to be eaten on-site

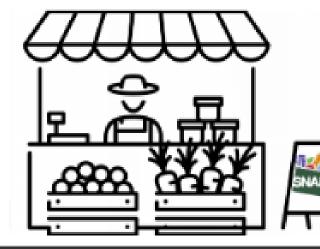


SNAP at the Farmers' Market: Vendor-Level System

- Individual vendors become SNAP Retailers
- Each vendor has their own set of SNAP equipment
 - Connected to their own bank account
 - Only accept SNAP for items they are selling







SNAP at the Farmers' Market: Market-Level System

Farmers' Market is the SNAP Retailer

- 1 central SNAP equipment
- Central bank account used for market
 - SNAP sales managed w/ tokens or "scrip"



• Market resources:

- **Staff/volunteers** to operate the SNAP equipment, manage tokens/receipts, and reimburse vendors
- Budget for equipment costs, tokens, vendor training, and marketing & outreach



Tokens or "Scrip" at Farmers' Market

- 1. Customers charge "\$___" to their card & receive tokens in exchange
- 2. Customers pay for SNAP-eligible items with tokens
- 3. At the end of the market, vendors bring tokens to info booth
- 4. Vendors are reimbursed by cash or from market's bank account



Step 1: Apply for the MarketLink Grant

Eligible	Not Eligible
 Direct Marketing Farmers (DMF): individual producers of agricultural products that sell directly to the public. At least 50% of what they sell they produced themselves. 	Business that are not a DMF or FM.
Farmers Markets (FM) : multi-stall markets at which farmer-producers sell food products they produced directly to the general public, at a central or fixed location.	DMF or FM that has already received equipment during this grant period (since 10/2019).
	DMF or FM with functioning equipment received through state-sponsored programs.



MarketLink Technical Assistance

- MarketLink's team is nationwide and can with ALL steps of the process, including:
 - ✓ Eligibility Assessment
 - ✓ USDA SNAP Retailer Application
 - ✓ Equipment setup and training
 - ✓Any questions relating to accepting SNAP/EBT

Book a phone call with our Regional Representatives:

https://marketlink.youcanbook.me or email: info@marketlink.org



Step 2: USDA SNAP Retailer Application

- 1. Apply online through the USDA's website
 - If MarketLink applies on your behalf \rightarrow book appointment
 - If you do it on your own → create USDA account, follow step-by-step instructions provided by MarketLink
- 2. Identify who will be the Responsible Official (owner(s), executive director)
- 3. Submit Supporting Documents
 - Photo ID
 - Social Security Card (only 501(c)3 nonprofit or government-owned farmers markets are exempted from this)
 - Signature Page
 - Business license (if applicable)
 - 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Status Determination Letter from IRS (if applicable)
- 4. Additional Information Requests
- 5. Check on status often online and by calling the USDA directly
- 6. Once you're approved, you'll receive a SNAP Permit!
 - Start early! The whole process can take 1-3 months.





Step 3: Get SNAP Point-of-Sale Equipment













Grant Equipment Overview

- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
 - Customers will need to provide their own smart device to run the TotilPay Go app (Android 5+, Apple iOS 12+ devices).
 - Device must have **Bluetooth** to connect to the card reader.
 - Internet/data service is required. You can use WiFi or a paid mobile service.
 - Any carrier works (Verizon, Sprint, AT&T, etc.)







Printer Waiver

(as of October 2019)

• USDA has provided a printer waiver for <u>those who receive equipment</u>

through this grant.

- Email or text receipt option.
- Ability to check balance of SNAP account.
- Printers are available for purchase.



Step 4: Sign up for TotilPay Go

The most simple, affordable way to accept SNAP!

- Month-to-Month or Yearly Subscription
- NO Long-Term Contracts
- NO Early Termination Fees
- NO Per Transaction Fees for SNAP
- NO Set Up Fees
- NO ACH Fees



Overview of Costs

What the 1-Year MarketLink Grant covers:

- Free Bluetooth SNAP/EBT card reader (yours to keep).
- 1-year subscription to the TotilPay Go Point-Of-Sale App.
- Printer waiver no printer/printed receipts required for SNAP/EBT sales (email or text receipts available).

What happens after the 1st year?

- The cost of the TotilPay Go Point-Of-Sale App license is \$191.40/year or \$19.95/month
- MarketLink customers will continue to enjoy:
 - The use of the Bluetooth SNAP/EBT card reader.
 - The printer waiver.

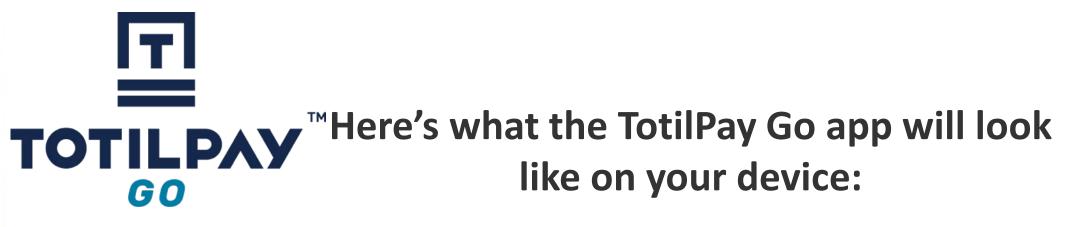


Transaction Rates

SNAP/EBT Transactions			
TotilPay Go*	 \$0 per transaction + 0 % of the sale 		
OPTIONAL CREDIT / DEBIT			
Square*	 \$0.10 per credit / debit transaction + 2.6% of sale No subscription/contract Uses Square reader 		
WorldPay*	 \$0.15 per credit/debit transaction + 1.79% of sale (+ \$199 annual WorldPay account maintenance fee, 3-year contract) Uses grant provided Bluetooth card reader 		



*Rates as of Jan 2021



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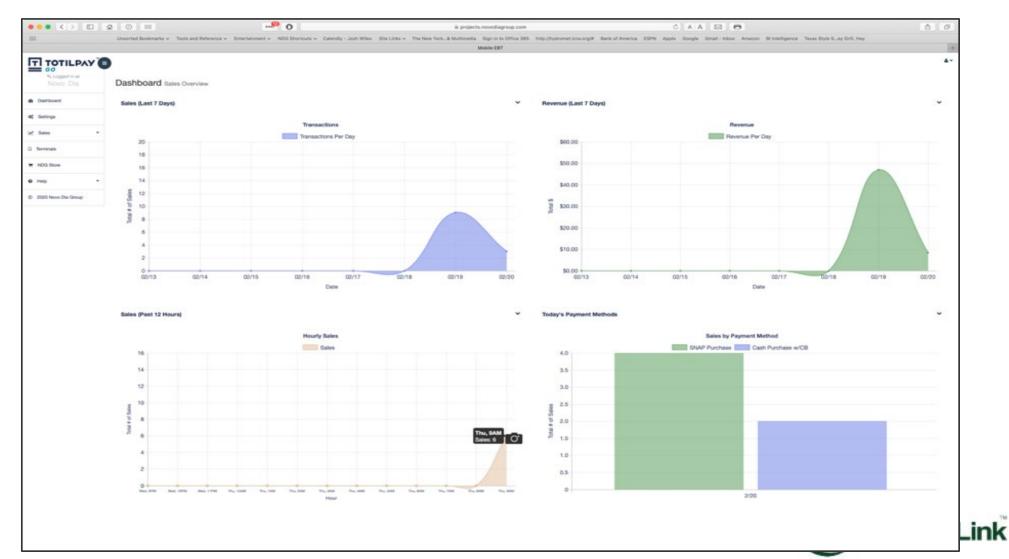
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Sales data is available to view and download from TPG website



Questions?

Book a phone appointment: <u>https://marketlink.youcanbook.me</u> General email: <u>info@marketlink.org</u>

Whitney Butler, Regional Representative for Mountain Plains, Midwest and Mid-Atlantic: <u>whitney.butler@marketlink.org</u>

www.marketlink.org



Thank you!!

When You Accept SNAP/EBT, You Feed Your Community & Grow Your Customer Base

