



St. Louis Farmers Market
2020 Vendor Agreement for Accepting Bridge Cards (EBT)

The St. Louis Farmers Market accepts food assistance benefits (EBT/food stamps) in the form of the Michigan Bridge Card, which is processed and paid through the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce. Participation by eligible vendors is optional but encouraged.

Agreement:

- I agree to follow all of the rules as explained on the attached process/rule sheet.
- I agree to follow all policies of the St. Louis 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 tokens 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 _____
Linda Bader

About the Bridge Card Program

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 (St. Louis Farmers Market) account. The customer does this at the Market Information table, located next to the city hall building.

NOTE: This market participates in many incentive programs that use tokens and coupons. DO NOT ACCEPT any tokens or coupons from a customer unless you have a signed agreement with this market to accept them. Unauthorized tokens or coupons will not be reimbursed by the St. Louis Farmers Market.



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Bridge Card Process and Rules:

The Bridge Card (SNAP, EBT) Process:

1. Customers can visit the Market Information table (located next to the city hall building) to obtain St. Louis Farmers' Market Tokens (\$1 each). There is no fee or cost to the customer for this service, nor to the vendors at this time.
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. At the end of each market day, vendors return tokens to the Market Information table along with a completed Vendor Sales Slip. St. Louis Farmers Market Manager, or one of the trained market volunteers will collect, count and initial the Vendor Sales Slip.
4. Vendors will be reimbursed monthly by a check that will be mailed from the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce.

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 this program.
- **Under this Program, you cannot sell:** Hot foods, cut flowers, decorative plants, pet food, or any 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 Information table at the end of each market day.
- Token reimbursement checks will be issued monthly and mailed from the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Questions or concerns about this program should be directed to Linda Bader, St. Louis Farmers Market Manager.

Linda Bader, St. Louis Farmers Market Manager
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