

SNAP Fact Sheet

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), previously known as Food Stamps, helps individuals and households pay for nutritious foods. Payments are credited to the household's electronic card, the same card that is used for cash assistance payments. You can use SNAP benefits to buy food at most grocery stores and supermarkets. You can not use SNAP benefits to buy non-food items, alcoholic beverages, and pet foods.

Household

Your SNAP household consists of yourself and everyone you live with, and buy and prepare meals with. One residence (house, apartment, etc.) may include more than one SNAP household, if the people do not buy and prepare meals together. A household must live in the state from which it is applying for benefits.

Interview

After completing a SNAP application, households must have a face-to-face interview with an eligibility worker before receiving benefits, and at least once every 12 months after receiving benefits. If household situations make a face-to-face interview difficult, it may be possible to receive approval for a telephone interview.

Expedited SNAP Benefits

If a household meets certain eligibility requirements, the household will be able to receive SNAP benefits within seven days. To be approved for expedited SNAP, **at least one** of the following must be true for the household:

- All members are migrant or seasonal farm workers, their liquid resources do not exceed \$100, and they are deemed to be destitute
- Liquid resources total \$100 or less and countable monthly gross income is less than \$150
- Combined monthly gross income and liquid resources are less than monthly shelter expenses

Eligibility

1.) Immigration Status

Most legal immigrants can get SNAP benefits if they are otherwise eligible. The general rule is that legal immigrants can get benefits after they have been in the United States for five years, and some immigrants can get benefits right away. Individuals applying for SNAP benefits must give the SNAP office their social security number. Again, even if you can not get SNAP benefits because you do not have a social security number, the other people in your household can still receive benefits if they are eligible.

2.) Students

An individual who is enrolled at least half time in a college may be ineligible to receive benefits. However, there are many exceptions to this rule, including for individuals who are employed, participating in work-study, or responsible for the care of a young child.

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3.) Work Status

To receive SNAP benefits, it is generally required that individuals between the ages of 18 and 49 work or be enrolled in an Employment and Training Program.

You may be exempt from work requirements if:

- You are disabled
- You are receiving cash assistance (TANF)
- You take care of a disabled person or a dependent child under age 6 in your household
- You are receiving unemployment compensation
- You participate in an alcohol or drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation program
- You are a student enrolled at least half-time (as defined by the school)

4.) Felony Drug Conviction

In some states, persons with a felony drug conviction on or after August 22, 1996 are not eligible for SNAP benefits at all, or not eligible for a certain period of time. Some states may require such individuals to participate in a drug treatment program before they are allowed to receive SNAP benefits.

5.) Intentional Program Violation

Persons who have committed SNAP (or Food Stamps) fraud, in any state, may be ineligible for a specified period of time, or they may be ineligible for life.

6.) Fleeing Felon

Individuals who are avoiding prosecution or custody for a crime are not eligible for SNAP benefits.