



FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

SNAP Eligibility



What is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)?

SNAP benefits help eligible low-income people supplement their food budgets so they can purchase food. If you qualify, you will receive an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to help you buy food at authorized SNAP grocery stores and farmers markets. Look for signs that say, “We accept SNAP benefits.” Benefits are put on the card each month during the time you are approved to receive them. After that, if you still want to qualify for SNAP, you have to apply again to see if you are eligible.

What are the financial requirements to qualify for SNAP benefits?

Your resources and income must be below certain limits.

RESOURCES:

- **What is a resource in SNAP?** Checking or savings accounts are resources in SNAP. In some States, more than one car is a resource.
- **What is not a resource in SNAP?** Your home is not a resource in SNAP. The resources of people who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) do not count as resources in SNAP eligibility.
- **What is the resource limit?** Resource limits vary by State, so check with your [local office](#).

INCOME:

- **What is income in SNAP?** There are two types of income in SNAP. There are limits for both types. *Gross Income* is your total income from all sources including wages from work, disability payments, veterans’ benefits, or pensions. *Net Income* is the amount left over after certain deductions from income.

- **What deductions are allowed?** *Deductions from income* are items such as utility costs, child support payments, child or dependent care payments, and monthly medical expenses over \$35 for people age 60 or older or disabled people, which are subtracted from your gross income to determine your net income.
- **What are the income limits?** The gross income limit for SNAP varies by State, so check with your [local office](#). In every State, your net income must be below 100 percent of the Federal poverty level, about \$2,000 per month for a household of four.
- **Do I have to meet two income limits?** Most households must meet both gross and net income limits. If everyone in your household receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), there are no income limits to meet. Households with people age 60 or older or a disabled member do not have to meet the gross income limit.

What are the non-financial requirements for SNAP?

People convicted of drug-related felonies may not be eligible. College students are not eligible, unless they meet certain work requirements or other exceptions. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for SNAP. Check with your [local office](#) for more information.

What are the work requirements for SNAP?

Most people must register for work, not voluntarily quit their job, take a job if offered, or participate in an employment and training program if assigned to one. If you are an able-bodied adult with no children, there may be other work requirements. Check with your [local office](#).

SNAP ELIGIBILITY

How do I apply for SNAP?

- Get an application from your [local office](#) or use your State's online application if it has one.
- Fill out as much of the application as you can. At a minimum, fill out your name, address, and signature. This is enough to start the application process.
- Submit the application to your local office or according to the online instructions.
- Have an interview in person or by phone.
- Show the local office papers like pay stubs, rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, child or elder care bills, and child support payments to verify your income and expenses. The local office will tell you exactly what information you need.

- If the office tells you to mail in specific items, only send copies. Do not send original documents because you may not get them back.

What should I do if there is a mistake on my case?

If you do not agree with a decision made on your SNAP case or if you think there is a mistake, you can request a fair hearing. Make this request in person at your local office, by phone, or by mail within 90 days from the date of the State's decision.

What should I do if I have questions?

Contact your [local office](#). Only the local or State office can make an eligibility decision or answer specific questions about your application or your case.