

Agency Logo (e.g. DHS)	Organization Logo
-------------------------------	--------------------------

What is SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or “food stamps”, is the nation’s largest food assistance program. In 2018, nearly 40 million Americans received SNAP benefits. SNAP provides support for people who meet income eligibility rules and want to put healthy & nutritious food on the table.

What is SNAP E&T?

The SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Program helps SNAP recipients obtain employment. [Org Name] is a partner for E&T, providing employment & training services to SNAP recipients.

SNAP and SNAP E&T FAQs

I’m receiving SNAP, but my [Org Staff Title] says the SNAP agency wasn’t able to verify me for participation in E&T. What should I do?

Unfortunately, we cannot verify participants ourselves unless the participant shows up in the online verification system. But this doesn’t mean you’re out of luck! Either online or in person, request a SNAP verification letter from your local SNAP office. Bring us back this letter -- we will make a copy and ensure you are added to the program so you are eligible for the services!

I have a work requirement for SNAP. What does that mean?

Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) 18-49 years old are generally required by law to work and/or participate in a work program at least 80 hours per month to receive SNAP more than three months in a three-year period. SNAP administrators must determine and verify ABAWD work hours at certification, and start counting the three months if the individual is not meeting work requirements. ABAWDs are required to report whenever their work participation dips below the 20 hours/week required, averaged monthly.

I used to receive SNAP, but it stopped and I don’t know why. Can I still do SNAP E&T?

Not until you receive SNAP. Your benefits may have stopped if you didn’t meet the work requirement (80 hours/month for an average of 20 hours per week), because you missed your recertification window to continue receiving benefits, or for another reason. Let’s help you get back on track! Ask [Staff Title] to help you contact the SNAP agency for information about your case and to start another SNAP application if necessary.

I want to apply for SNAP, but I don't have a permanent or reliable address. Can I still apply?

Yes. You do not need a permanent address to receive SNAP. If you live in a halfway house, are staying with friends or family, or simply don't have a lease or rental agreement, you can still receive SNAP.

SNAP allows applications from people without permanent or reliable addresses, just be sure to let your representative know you're still figuring out your address.

I have questions about where I can use my EBT card. Who can I ask?

Resources for questions likely vary based on your jurisdiction. Add specific locations, webpages, or resources that can support participants with these questions

What is "reporting," and how often do I need to do it?

Federal requirements ask agencies to check SNAP eligibility once per year, oftentimes with a review every 6 months to disclose any updates. They do this by requesting recipients send their pay stubs (if they have any) to the social services office. This is to check your income and make sure you are still eligible for benefits. You may have to do this as often as every three months (or more often!).

What happens with my benefits when I start getting paid from my [Org Name] job?

Your benefits could decrease once you earn more income: under normal circumstances, benefits decrease by \$1 for every \$3 increase in countable income. Talk to your [Org Name] staff about managing your work schedule and understanding your overall income and how that may impact the support you get for food.

This question is especially relevant for employment social enterprises. If this applies to your organization, **add additional information or context** specific to your program's model & approach to these challenges with SNAP eligibility.

What if I've only been at my new job a few months and end up above the income requirements when I have to report? Will I lose my benefits?

If you make above the income limits for SNAP, you are no longer eligible for SNAP. You are still eligible to receive support from [Org Name] through retention services.

If I accept SNAP, am I taking money away from someone who needs it more?

No. The SNAP program is an entitlement program. That means that anyone who applies and is eligible will receive benefits. There are enough benefits for everyone that's eligible.

If I enroll in SNAP and SNAP E&T, will it affect my parole or probation?

No. Enrolling in SNAP E&T and SNAP does not mean that [Org Name] discloses more to your supervision officer, and starting and/or stopping SNAP/SNAP E&T does not affect your supervision compliance.

Someone else in my home receives SNAP. Can I still apply?

Potentially. A household is defined as an individual living alone or individuals who live together and usually purchase & prepare food together. If you live in the same place, but do not purchase food together, you may apply separately. Some common exceptions to this include: married couples living together, and children under 22 living with parent(s) (natural, adoptive, or step).

If that someone else is your parent/former guardian, check that they're not currently claiming you as a part of their household. Not doing this can cause major headaches for that parent/former guardian if they are claiming you as a part of their household.

What determines eligibility and the benefit amount that I get?

SNAP has three eligibility tests as determined by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008:

- Gross monthly income: Your income has to be at or below 130% of the poverty line. (There is not a gross income limit for 60+ and disabled)
- Net monthly income: All of your paycheck can't be spent on food, your income has to go towards other things as well. Net Income subtracts expenses like housing, child support and care. Medical expenses subtracted as well for 60+ and/or disabled. For SNAP eligibility, your net monthly income has to fall at or below the poverty line (with those deductions).
- Assets: Your assets must be below \$2,250. Generally, your primary home, surrounding land, and one vehicle are excluded. (One vehicle is excluded if used for your job or is needed for medical reasons). Other exceptions may apply.

Your net income determines the amount of your monthly benefit. SNAP benefits are calculated by subtracting 30 percent of a household's net income from the maximum benefit to which it's entitled. People with zero net income receive the maximum benefit.

States also have "categorical eligibility", meaning that if you qualify for some other public benefits, you qualify for SNAP. This may mean broader qualifying standards than SNAP's.

Myths & Facts

Myth: SNAP and Food Stamps are different.

Fact: SNAP and Food Stamps are the same program.

In 2008, the Federal Food Stamp Program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to reflect an increasing focus on nutrition, in addition to addressing hunger in America. Some states still call the program "Food Stamps" or "Food Support" and many have created their own names, such as "SNAP" (California), 3SquaresVT (Vermont), or FoodShare (Wisconsin).

Myth: Single men can't get SNAP.

Fact: Anyone receives SNAP who qualifies.

As long as you meet the income eligibility requirements, and comply with the work requirement if you are classified with ABAWD status, then you can receive SNAP.

Myth: SNAP is welfare.

Fact: SNAP is a stand-alone entitlement program for people who need nutrition assistance.

The Food Stamp program is not a welfare program or part of the welfare system at all; it is a nutrition assistance program. The goal of the program is to increase a household's ability to buy more nutritious foods from neighborhood food stores.

Myth: SNAP is a wasteful government program.

Fact: SNAP is an efficient government program.

SNAP actually is deemed to be the most efficient major benefit government assistance program in operation, with a payment accuracy of 96.1% in 2012. The majority of errors in disbursement end up being underpayments. According to the USDA, the rate of administrative errors in SNAP has reached a historical low of 3.81%, with more than 98% of SNAP beneficiaries meeting stringent eligibility requirements.¹

Myth: The SNAP benefit I will likely receive will only be the minimum of \$20.

Fact: SNAP benefits are narrowly distributed according to income and expenses.

Nationally, the average monthly benefit for a household of one in FY2020 was only \$134. The maximum monthly benefit was \$194 for a household of one.²

Myth: SNAP is ineffective because eligible people refuse to enroll.

Fact: Only 17% of eligible non-participating households do not participate in SNAP because they do not want the help.³

The majority of non-participating households are either unaware of their eligibility for SNAP or experience other barriers such as the time needed to enroll or transportation issues. In fact, 69% of survey-takers said that they would apply for SNAP if they knew that they were eligible.

¹ "Average Monthly Benefit Per Person." Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). United States Department of Agriculture, 2013.

² Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-quick-guide-to-snap-eligibility-and-benefits>

³ "Average Monthly Benefit Per Person." Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). United States Department of Agriculture, 2013.