

# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps)

## What are Food Stamps?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) helps people buy the food they need. SNAP is available to those who are:

- Working for low wages
- Working part-time
- Unemployed
- Receiving TANF or other government assistance payments
- Low-income elderly or disabled
- Homeless

## How does it work?

Food stamps are no longer actual stamps; credit is placed onto an EBT card (similar to a debit or bank card), and the money on the EBT card can be used only to buy food, and only at certain locations. Food stamps do not cover a family's total food costs.

The amount of SNAP a family can receive is based on family income and the number of people who live off that income. A family will qualify if all household members receive TANF or SSI. To qualify for food stamps, your assets (savings, investments and possessions, not including your home or car) must be worth: \$2,000 or less if you are single; \$3,000 if at least one person in the household is disabled or at least 60 years old.

## Immigration Status

You do not need to be a US citizen to receive Food Stamps. Food Stamps may be available to legal immigrants who:

- Have lived in the country for 5 years
- Are receiving disability benefits, regardless of when they entered the country
- Are children, regardless of when they entered the country

Non-citizens that are in the US temporarily, such as students, are not eligible. See the US Department of Agriculture's [Food Stamp Policy on Immigrants](#) for more information on Food Stamps for alien immigrants.

Note: All applicants must have social security numbers.

### Income Limits (10/01/09–9/30/10)

People in Household	Gross Monthly Income*	Net Monthly Income**
1	\$1,174	\$903
2	1,579	1,215
3	1,984	1,526
4	2,389	1,838
5	2,794	2,150
6	3,200	2,461
7	3,605	2,773
8	4,010	3,085
Each additional person	+406	+312

\* Gross income is a household's total income before deductions/disregards. Gross income limits may differ for the disabled, elderly and other categorically eligible applicants.

\*\* Net income is household income after deductions such as those for earned income, medical expenses (for elderly or disabled members), child support payments, "excess" shelter costs, and a standard deduction.

Source: US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. 17 June 2010.

[http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/applicant\\_recipients/eligibility.htm#income](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/applicant_recipients/eligibility.htm#income).

### How does one apply?

There are two ways to apply for Food Stamps:

1. Complete and submit a Food Stamps-only application
  - Visit a local Food Stamps office/outreach project
  - Call a local Food Stamps office/outreach project and ask that an application be mailed to you.
  - Call a local Food Stamps office/outreach project and ask about additional places where you can pick up the form.
2. Complete and submit a DC Combined Application for Benefits form. (This form can be used to apply for Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, Interim Disability Assistance and TANF/General Assistance for Children.)
  - Visit a local DHS Income Maintenance Administration Service Center
  - Call a local DHS Income Maintenance Administration Service Center and ask that an application be mailed to you.
  - Print out the [Combined Application for Benefits\\*](#) ([Combined Application for Benefits\\*](#), Spanish version) found on the DC Department of Health Services website.

## Contact Information

1. DC Information/Hotline  
Phone: (202) 724-5506

### 2. Local Food Stamp Outreach Projects

**Bread for the City – Northwest**  
1525 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: (202) 265-2400  
Fax: (202) 745-1081

**DC Hunger Solutions**  
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 540  
Washington, DC 20009  
Phone: (202) 986-2200  
Fax: (202) 986-2525

**Bread for the City – Southeast**  
1640 Good Hope Road, SE  
Washington, DC 20020  
Phone: (202) 561-8587  
Fax: (202) 574-1536

**The Family Place**  
3309 16th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20010  
Phone: (202) 265-0149  
Fax: (202) 483-0650

**Capital Area Food Bank**  
645 Taylor Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20017  
Phone: (202) 526-5344  
Fax: (202) 529-1767

**Mary's Center Bilingual Health Access Project (BHAP)**  
2333 Ontario Rd. NW  
Phone: (202) 483-8196 or  
(202) 483-8319

### 3. DC Department of Human Services Income Maintenance Administration Service Centers

Customers should call the IMA at (202) 724-5506 to learn which Service Centers serve their addresses.

Anacostia Service Center  
2100 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20020

Fort Davis Service Center  
3851 Alabama Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20020

Congress Heights Service Center  
4001 South Capitol Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20032

H Street Service Center  
645 H Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Taylor Street Service Center  
1207 Taylor Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011