

# 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 are 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 who are in the US temporarily, such as students, are not eligible. See [Food Stamp Policy on Immigrants](#) for more information on the eligibility of 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. 28 June 2010.

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

### How does one apply?

Complete and submit a Food Stamps application.

- Visit the [Prince George's County Department of Social Services](#).
- Call the [Prince George's County Department of Social Services](#) and ask that an application be mailed to you.
- Download and submit the application available on the Maryland Department of Human Resources [Family Investment Administration](#) webpage.
- Call 1 (800) 332-6347 or visit the [Maryland Department of Human Resources Food Stamps](#) webpage if you need help.

You can turn in your application form even if the local department cannot see you on that day. A household can receive benefits within 7-30 days of applying.

For more information on this benefit and other benefits, read the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services "[Guide to Community Services](#)".

To test for eligibility online, visit the Maryland Department of Human Resources' "[Am I Eligible?](#)" screening tool.

### Contact Information

[Prince George's County Department of Social Services](#)

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