

Stretch your Budget with SNAP/Food Stamps

Around 140,000 D.C. residents participate in the Food Stamp program (also known as SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Many people, such as working families, seniors over 60, and others are eligible SNAP/Food Stamps.

Am I eligible? These questions will tell you if you may qualify for SNAP/Food Stamps:

1. How many people live in the home and buy and prepare food together?

- This is the size of your “household”. You must report income of everyone in your household.

2. About how much does your household have in income each month BEFORE taxes? (This includes income from work, benefits, child support, and any other monetary gain.) Refer to the chart below.

- **If your gross income is under 130%**, you are potentially eligible and should apply!
- **If your gross income falls between 130% and 200%**, you are still potentially eligible, but your benefit level may be lower.
- **If there is a senior household member (60+) or a household member with a disability and the household income is above 200% of the federal poverty level**, your could be eligible for a benefit if you have high housing, child care or dependent care costs, or unreimbursed medical expenses.

SNAP/Food Stamps Eligibility Guidelines and Max Benefit			
October 2015-September 2016			
People in Household	130% of Federal Poverty Level Gross Monthly Income Limits	200% of Federal Poverty Level Gross Monthly Income Limits	Maximum Monthly Benefit (Oct 2015 – Sept 2016)
1	\$1,276	\$1,962	\$194
2	\$1,726	\$2,656	\$357
3	\$2,177	\$3,350	\$511
4	\$2,628	\$4,042	\$649
5	\$3,078	\$4,736	\$771
6	\$3,529	\$5,430	\$925
7	\$3,980	\$6,122	\$1,022
8	\$4,430	\$6,816	\$1,169
Each additional person	add \$451	add \$694	add \$146

I want to apply. How much could my SNAP/Food Stamps benefit be?

It varies. In general, the lower your income, the higher your benefit level will be. The minimum benefit level for all household sizes is \$16 per month. If you apply, you will need to provide proof of any income you earn or receive and any expenses that the office will count as a deduction. See the reverse side for a list of documents you will need to prove income and expenses. A caseworker will review your income and any applicable deductions to determine if you qualify and if so, your exact benefit level.

Remember: anyone can apply for benefits, but only a D.C. Department of Human Services, Economic Security Administration (ESA) caseworker can determine your eligibility and benefit level. Want to find out if you can get SNAP/Food Stamps? Then apply!

How long will it take before I know if I am approved?

Normally, the ESA office has 30 days to make a decision on your case. **If you have less than \$150 in gross income** or your housing costs exceed your income, you may be eligible for emergency SNAP/ Food Stamps and can receive benefits within 7 days. **Apply at the nearest ESA Service Center as soon as possible. Visit <http://dhs.dc.gov/page/economic-security> for more information or call (202) 727-5355.**

Where can I apply for SNAP/Food Stamps?

You can apply at any service center listed below, but call (202) 727-5355 to find the center your address is assigned to. Download an application "Combined Application for Benefits" online at <http://dhs.dc.gov/service/apply-benefits> or pick up a copy at any service center. You will need to take the application to the office – you cannot apply online.

Hours are Monday-Friday 7:30 AM - 4:45 PM, Wednesday until 8 PM.

D.C. Department of Human Services Economic Security Administration (ESA) Service Centers

Anacostia

2100 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020
Phone: (202) 645-4614
Fax: (202) 727-3527

Phone: (202) 698-4350

Fax: (202) 724-8964

Taylor Street

1207 Taylor Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
Phone: (202) 576-8000
Fax: (202) 576-8740

Congress Heights

4001 South Capitol Street, SW
Washington, DC 20032
Phone: (202) 645-4546
Fax: (202) 645-4524

Fort Davis

3851 Alabama Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020
Phone: (202) 645-4500
Fax: (202) 645-6205

H Street

645 H Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

What information do I need to apply?

When you visit an ESA service center, take as much of the following paperwork as you have.*

- Photo ID for yourself
- Social Security numbers for all in your household
- Proof of D.C. residency (lease, utility bill)
- Proof of income e.g.,
 - Pay stubs from last month of work
 - Social security or unemployment benefit
 - Child support payments you receive
- Proof of expenses e.g.,
 - Rent or mortgage receipt
 - Utility bills (including cell phone)
 - Child care or dependent care costs
 - Child support payments you owe
 - Medical bills (if over 60, or have a disability)

***Don't have official documentation? A written letter from an employer or landlord will also count as proof.**

What if I can't visit the service center or stay to wait for an interview?

You can drop off your application and copies of your paperwork and come back later, or assign someone (a friend or relative) on page 1 of the application as your Authorized Representative to complete the interview on your behalf.

Any time you visit the office, be sure to get a receipt of paperwork you submit or actions you take.

*If you are unable to apply because you work during the hours the office is open, have a disability or other hardship prevents you from getting to the service center or you are age 60 or older, you can **request a phone interview**. You will still have to complete an application and provide all the necessary paperwork. Contact D.C. Hunger Solutions for assistance at (202) 640-1088.*

If I'm approved, how long will I get SNAP/Food Stamps?

Most households are certified to receive SNAP for one year, after which you must reapply. Your award letter will tell you the date that your certification period ends. After 5 months, you will be mailed a mid-certification form which YOU MUST COMPLETE and return to the office within a month, or your benefits will be cut off and you will have to reapply. Visit or call your service center and ask about mid-certification if you don't receive this form. **Contact your service center** if you change addresses so that you can continue to receive important notices, or if your income increases or decreases, someone moves in and out of your household. These changes can affect your SNAP/Food Stamp benefit level.

ESA Call Center: (202) 727-5355.

