

ABAWD Changes



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

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Introduction to D.C. Hunger Solutions

- ❑ Founded as an initiative of the Food Research and Action Center in 2002, D.C. Hunger Solutions seeks to create a hunger-free community and improve the nutrition, health, economic security, and well-being of low-income District residents by:
 - ❑ Improving public policies to end hunger, reduce poverty, promote nutrition, and increase the availability of healthy, affordable food in low-income areas;
 - ❑ Maximizing participation in all federal nutrition programs; and
 - ❑ Educating the public about both the stark reality of hunger's existence in the midst of plenty and the real opportunities for effective solutions.



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Agenda

- ❑ Overview of SNAP
- ❑ Expected changes to SNAP
 - Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) Changes
 - Eligibility Changes
- ❑ Application and Recertification Process
- ❑ Questions

Overview of SNAP

What is SNAP?

- ❑ The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal nutrition program that provides monthly benefits on an EBT card to eligible individuals. It can be a useful tool to help households pay for groceries and maximize their budgets.
- ❑ SNAP can be used at most stores that sell food. It can be used to purchase non-prepared foods, as well as plants and seeds to grow your own food.



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SNAP in the District

- ❑ About 140,000 District residents participate in SNAP
- ❑ For every \$1 spent on SNAP, \$1.80 of economic activity is generated. SNAP is a **stimulus program**.



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What is a SNAP Household?

- ❑ A group of people who live together, buy food as a group, and prepare meals as a group. They do not have to be related.
- ❑ There are many scenarios in which more than one SNAP household can share the same residence.
- ❑ A SNAP household does not necessarily need a permanent mailing address.



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What is a SNAP Household? (cont.)

- ❑ The following people **must** be considered a household, even if they purchase food separately:
 - ❑ Spouses who live together
 - ❑ Parents and children under 22, even if the child is married or has a child of their own, who live together



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SNAP Income Guidelines

❑ Two income guidelines:

❑ Gross income: amount of income a household receives before taxes and deductions

❑ Must be below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines

❑ Households with older adults (60+) and people with disabilities are not subject to gross income limits

❑ Net income: amount of income a household has after taxes

❑ Must be below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines



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Earned v. Unearned Income

- ❑ Earned Income: income from a job
- ❑ Unearned Income: anything else, including cash assistance, Social Security, unemployment payments, retirement benefits, and child support
- ❑ This is an important distinction, as they are calculated differently.



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SNAP Income Guidelines – effective 10/1/2024 to 09/30/2025

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income for Categorical Eligibility (200% FPL)	Maximum Net Monthly Income (100% FPL)	Maximum SNAP Allotment
1	\$2,510	\$1,255	\$292
2	\$3,408	\$1,704	\$536
3	\$4,304	\$2,152	\$768
4	\$5,200	\$2,600	\$975
5	\$6,098	\$3,049	\$1,158
6	\$6,994	\$3,497	\$1,390
7	\$7,890	\$3,945	\$1,536
8	\$8,788	\$4,394	\$1,756
Each Additional Member	+\$898	+\$449	+\$220

Overview of SNAP

Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) have been defined as...

❑ People who are...

- between the ages of 18 and 54;
- do not have anyone under age 18 living with them;
- have no medical or physical barriers to employment; or
- are not pregnant



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Work Requirements

- ❑ Clients can meet the requirement by working a traditional job, enrolling in SNAP Employment and Training (E&T), or volunteering for at least 20 hours per week (or 80 hours/month on average).
- ❑ If clients do not meet these requirements, they are only eligible to receive SNAP benefits for up to 3 full months in a 36-month period.



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D.C.'s ABAWD Waiver

- ❑ USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) can approve waivers for states that have high unemployment rates or few jobs available.
- ❑ D.C. has had a longstanding [ABAWD waiver](#) in place, which means that SNAP clients have not been subject to work requirements.
- ❑ D.C.'s current waiver will expire in December 2025.



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Federal Budget Package Changes

- ❑ Raises the age limit for older adults from 54 to 64.
- ❑ Decreases the maximum age for a dependent from 18 to 14.
- ❑ Removes temporary exemptions for people experiencing homelessness, people under 24 who aged out of foster care, and veterans.
- ❑ DHS plans to apply for another waiver but does not expect it to be approved.



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What does this mean for residents?

- ❑ Residents who have not previously been subject to work requirements may be required to start to work, enroll in a SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) program, or volunteer 20 hours per week
- ❑ Additional documentation to submit to DHS
- ❑ D.C. Hunger Solutions will release additional information, fliers, and a screening tool in the near future



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What does this mean RIGHT NOW?

- ❑ We are waiting for the USDA to give guidance to states.
- ❑ Until we have additional guidance, residents should continue to follow existing guidance and continue to apply for/recertify for/receive SNAP benefits.



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Eligibility Changes

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SNAP Eligibility Changes

- ❑ Previously, asylees, refugees, and certain trafficking survivors were eligible for SNAP.
- ❑ In the new federal budget package, SNAP is limited to citizens, lawfully present residents (LPRs), Cuban-Haitian entrants, and COFA migrants.



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Data Protections

- ❑ The [USDA has requested](#) that states share information about people “who have received, are currently receiving, or have applied to receive SNAP benefits from Jan. 1, 2020, through present date”
- ❑ D.C. received this request but has not shared any client data.
- ❑ D.C.’s Attorney General has joined a [lawsuit](#) with other states suing USDA for violation of privacy laws



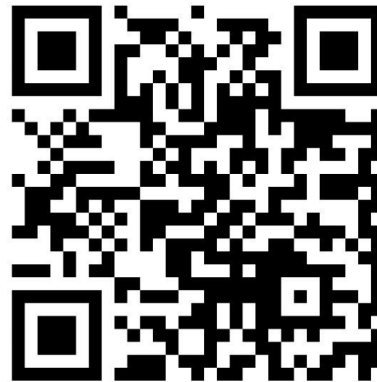
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SNAP Application and Recertification Process

Prescreening


- ❑ Before completing an application, you should prescreen households for eligibility.
- ❑ To do this, you can use D.C. Hunger Solutions' SNAP calculator at <https://www.dchunger.org/calculator/>



Prescreening

- ❑ Questions about household size, income, expenses, and potential deductions will show a preliminary estimate of eligibility and benefit size.
- ❑ Note: the calculator is just a preliminary assessment of eligibility. Only DHS can determine eligibility and benefit levels

Prescreening

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1 Household

2 Income

3 Medical Deductions

4 Dependent Care

5 Child Support

6 Housing and Utilities

7 Benefits

Step 1: Household Size and Composition

Important Note for Immigrants

You can apply and get SNAP/food stamps for eligible family members, even if your family includes other members who are not eligible because of immigration status. For example, immigrant parents may apply for SNAP/ food stamps for their U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant children, even though the parents may not be eligible for benefits.

For more information, including a list of immigrant statuses that may qualify someone for benefits, click [here](#).

How many people total live in **your household** (include all members who buy and prepare food together)?

Are ALL members of the household receiving **SSI** or **TANF** benefits?

Ways to Apply

- ❑ After determining potential eligibility, you can apply in a few ways.
 - ❑ Online on the District Direct website (<https://districtdirect.dc.gov/>) or on the District Direct mobile app.
 - ❑ D.C. Hunger Solutions can help households fill out the application over the phone.
- ❑ In-person or via fax or mail after completing a paper application.
 - ❑ D.C. Hunger Solutions can submit an application on behalf of a household.
 - ❑ Applications can be mailed or dropped off at any open ESA Service Center.
 - ❑ Try to keep a copy of your application in case it is lost by a Service Center.

Verification Documents

- ❑ Proof of Identity
- ❑ Proof of D.C. Residency
- ❑ Proof of Social Security number
- ❑ Proof of Income
- ❑ Proof of Shelter Expenses
- ❑ Proof of Medical Expenses (for older adults and people with disabilities)
- ❑ Proof of Dependent Care Expenses
- ❑ Proof of Immigration Status (if not a U.S.-born citizen)

Benefits Timelines

- ❑ Regular Service: ESA has 30 days from the date they receive the application to process it.
 - ❑ ESA must provide the household with either SNAP benefits or a notice about its decision within those 30 days.
- ❑ Expedited Service: ESA has 7 days from the date they receive the application to process it.
 - ❑ Eligibility for Expedited Service:
 - ❑ Less than \$150 gross monthly income AND less than \$100 in liquid resources, OR
 - ❑ Shelter costs exceed resources

Certification Periods

- ❑ A certification process is how long a household will receive benefits before needing to complete a recertification form.
 - ❑ **12 months** for most households
 - ❑ **36 months** for households comprised entirely of people aged 60 or older or with disabilities AND with no earned income
 - ❑ **6 months** for households experiencing homelessness

Questions?

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References

- ❑ FRAC D.C. SNAP Fact Sheet - [SNAP_FactSheets_022525_DC8.pdf](#) ABAWD Waivers | Food and Nutrition Service
- ❑ [SNAP Data Sharing Guidance](#) | Food and Nutrition Service
- ❑ SNAP Eligibility for Non-Citizens: [SNAP Eligibility for Non-Citizens](#) | Food and Nutrition Service

References (con't)

- ❑ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - Key Statistics and Research.
<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/key-statistics-and-research>
- ❑ FRAC D.C. SNAP Fact Sheet -
[SNAP FactSheets_022525_DC8.pdf](#)
- ❑ SNAP Eligibility for Non-Citizens: [SNAP Eligibility for Non-Citizens | Food and Nutrition Service](#)



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