

# Senior Food Resources in D.C.

## Quick Tip Referral Sheet



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

### **SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)**

**Overview:** Formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. Provides low-income individuals and households monthly benefits on an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card to purchase food at grocery stores and farmers' markets.

**Who is Eligible:** Low-income individuals

**Who to Contact:**

For submitting an application: Economic Security Administration (ESA), 202-727-5355

- <http://dhs.dc.gov/service/apply-benefits>

For screening and application assistance: D.C. Hunger Solutions, 202-640-1088, [MJensen@dchunger.org](mailto:MJensen@dchunger.org)

- Pre-screener: [www.dchunger.org/calculator](http://www.dchunger.org/calculator)

**Service areas:** All wards.

**Application process:** ♦ Clients apply through paper application to ESA. ♦ Once an application is submitted, client has interview with case worker (in person or by phone). ♦ Client must submit documents (e.g., photo ID, proof of income, proof of housing costs, copies of utility bills, and copies of any out-of-pocket medical expenses). ♦ Case is processed in 30 days from the submission date, or if client has extremely limited resources, could be as soon as 7 days. ♦ Clients receive notice by postal mail, and if approved, information on where to pick up EBT cards. ♦ Note: Most seniors will receive a notice by postal mail asking if anything has changed after one year from the approval date and must re-certify after two years.

**Options for Seniors with Disabilities:** D.C. Hunger Solutions offers application assistance over the phone or by mail/email. ESA offers telephone interviews for seniors who are disabled and unable to attend in-person interviews. Clients can designate an authorized representative to assist with their case and use their EBT card. Seniors and individuals with disabilities can submit out-of-pocket medical expenses that exceed \$35 to help improve their benefit level.

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### **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (Grocery Plus)**

**Overview:** Monthly box of healthy groceries (30-40 lbs.) for low-income seniors. Offers Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) stipend of about \$25 each summer to spend on produce at farmers' markets.

**Who is Eligible:** Adults 60 years or older and <130% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Household of one: \$1,265/month

Household of two: \$1,705/month

**Who to Contact:**

Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB), 202-644-9800

- For more information: <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/what-we-do/direct-food-distribution-programs/commodity-supplemental-food-program/>

D.C. Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL), 202-724-5626

**Service areas:** All wards

**Application process:** ♦ Call the Grocery Plus Main Line (202-644-9880) to find the closest pick-up site to the applicant. Sites are residential, walk-in, or community-based. ♦ Client applies at site in person based on the monthly pick-up slot for that site. ♦ Applicants must bring proof of: age, D.C. residency, identity, and income. Proof of income must be from the past 24 months. ♦ Note: a mid-certification occurs around October each year and re-enrollment occurs each April.

**Options for Seniors with Disabilities:** Clients can designate proxies to apply and to pick-up their box if they cannot physically go to the pick-up location. Some pick-up sites are in senior buildings. Additionally, there is a homebound delivery option for which seniors can sign up.

### **Community Dining**

**Overview:** Gives seniors nutritious lunchtime meals served daily in a group setting at 46 sites. Weekend meals are available at select sites. Cultural centers offer Hispanic and pan-Asian cuisine, as well as kosher and Halal meals.

**Who is Eligible:** Adults 60 years or older

**Who to Contact:**

- D.C. Senior Service Network Lead Agencies (by ward)
  - <https://dcoa.dc.gov/service/senior-service-network-lead-agencies>
- DACL Information, Referral and Assistance Division (IR&A), 202-724-5626
  - More information on meals: <http://dcoa.dc.gov/service/group-meals>

**Service areas:** All wards

**Application process:** ♦ Call nearby Senior Service Network Lead Agency to ensure that a meal is available. ♦ Go to the Lead Agency Congregate Meal site and complete an intake form and nutrition screen. ♦ No documents needed.

**Options for Seniors with Disabilities:** All sites should be Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.

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### **Home-Delivered Meals**

**Overview:** Offers healthy lunchtime meals delivered to the home for seniors that are frail, homebound, or isolated. Participants receive 10 or 14 refrigerated meals delivered every 2 weeks.

**Who is Eligible:** Frail, homebound, or isolated adults 60 years or older

**Who to Contact:**

- D.C. Senior Service Network Lead Agencies (by ward)
  - <https://dcoa.dc.gov/service/senior-service-network-lead-agencies>
- DACL Information, Referral and Assistance Division (IR&A), 202-724-5626

**Service areas:** All wards

**Application process:** ♦ Call DACL or a Lead Agency (ward ADRC) and request Home-Delivered Meals. ♦ Lead Agency will conduct a home visit to determine eligibility and needs of applicant. ♦ Note: reassessment occurs every 6 months.

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### **Produce Plus**

**Overview:** Locally funded program that provides eligible D.C. residents with up to two \$10 checks per week at eligible farmers' markets for fresh fruits and vegetables during the summer months.

**Who is Eligible:** D.C. residents who are recipients of SNAP, The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Medicaid, Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Senior Grocery Plus (Commodity Supplemental Food Program), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

**Who to Contact:**

To locate nearest markets:

- <https://www.dcgreens.org/s/2019-Produce-Plus-Farmers-Market-List-5.pdf>

For more information:

- Produce Plus Hotline, 202-888-4834
- D.C. Greens, 202-601-9200, <https://www.dcgreens.org/customers>
- D.C. Hunger Solutions, 202-640-1088

**Service areas:** All wards

**Application process:** ♦ Go to an Information Desk of any participating farmers' market. ♦ Provide D.C. ID and Program ID (e.g. EBT card) for any of the above eligible programs. ♦ Receive two \$5 Produce Plus checks. ♦ Spend checks on fruits, vegetables, and cut herbs at market. ♦ Note: Recipients can get Produce Plus checks twice per week.

**Options for Seniors with Disabilities:** Clients can come to a market with their proxy one time to get registered (both the customer and proxy need to bring photo IDs). Afterward, the proxy can pick up and spend checks on the customer's behalf.

### **SHARE Food Network**

**Overview:** Wholesale food cooperative that provides \$40-\$45 worth of food for \$22 and 2 hours per month of volunteer work. Clients can pay with SNAP, cash, credit or debit cards, checks, gift certificates, or money order.

**Who is Eligible:** Any D.C. resident in need

**Who to Contact:**

SHARE Food Network, 1-800-21-SHARE or 301-864-3115

- For more information: [www.sharedc.org](http://www.sharedc.org)

**Service areas:** All wards

**Application process:** ♦ Call SHARE Food Network line and provide zip code to get directions to the location closest to you. ♦ Get instructions on how to purchase food and when and where to pick it up.

**Options for Seniors with Disabilities:** Clients can designate authorized representative to pick up the food and volunteer on client's behalf. Seniors who are unable to volunteer can still receive food.

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### **Other Charitable Programs**

- **Capital Area Food Bank Hunger Hotline**, 202-644-9807
  - Personalized recommendations to community food resources over the phone
  - Monday-Friday, 9 am – 5 pm
  - <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/find-food-assistance/>
- **Food & Friends**, 202-269-2277
  - Home delivered meals Monday-Saturday, grocery deliveries every two weeks for individuals not living within the home delivered meals area, nutrition counseling
  - Tailored to individuals with HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, and other life-challenging illnesses or individuals in hospice
  - <https://foodandfriends.org/refer-a-client/>
- **We Are Family**, 202-487-8698
  - Monthly grocery bag delivery, one-time emergency food bags, weekly farmers market produce deliveries in the summer and fall, companionship, community, and some transportation services
  - Must be 60 years or older and in one of their service areas
    - North Capitol St., Shaw, Adams Morgan, Columbia Heights, Parkview, and Petworth

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