



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending Hunger in the Nation's Capital

SNAP Guide for Immigrants

Immigrant and mixed-status households may be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The *SNAP Guide for Immigrants* will assist families and individuals with determining eligibility and provide helpful information on how to apply for SNAP benefits.

SNAP is a federal nutrition program that provides monthly benefits on an Electronic Benefit Transfer card to eligible individuals. It can be a useful tool to help households pay for groceries and maximize their budgets.

What Are the Income Limits for SNAP?

If your gross monthly income is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and your net monthly income is at or below 100 percent of the FPL, you may be eligible for SNAP. If there is an older adult (over 60 years old) or a person with disabilities in your household and your household's income is above 200 percent FPL, you might still be eligible if you have high expenses.

What Documents Do I Need to Apply?

- proof of identity
- proof of Social Security Number or immigration information
- proof of D.C. residency
- proof of income
- proof of shelter, utility, or child care expenses

What Immigration Statuses Are Eligible for SNAP?

U.S. citizens and certain authorized noncitizens may receive SNAP benefits. Lawful permanent residents who have been in the U.S. for five years or who are under 18 years old are a common example of an eligible status. If you are unsure if you are eligible, please contact D.C. Hunger Solutions.

Can I Apply for an Eligible Family Member Even if I Am not Eligible?

Yes. If you are not a U.S. citizen or qualifying immigrant, you can obtain benefits on behalf of any qualifying family members (for example, a child who is a U.S. citizen). Additionally, District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DHS) is not authorized to ask for any information about your immigration status if you are not applying for yourself.

Will Receiving SNAP Benefits Affect My Immigration Status?

No. Applying for and receiving SNAP benefits for yourself or a member of your household will not result in a public charge and will not be considered in any determinations





SNAP Guide for Immigrants (CONTINUED)

of public charge. Applying for and/or receiving benefits will not affect your ability to:

- remain in the U.S.,
- obtain a green card/Permanent Legal Resident Status,
- keep a green card/Permanent Legal Resident Status, or
- become a U.S. citizen.

Can I Receive Benefits if I Do Not Speak English?

Yes. English language literacy does not impact your eligibility. Additionally, you have the right to receive documents in your preferred language and request interpretation services at any DHS call center or service center.

How Long Will It Take to Receive My Benefits?

Normally, the DHS has **30 days** to make a decision on your case. If you have less than \$150 in gross monthly income and less than \$100 in resources, or your housing costs exceed your combined income and resources, you may be eligible for Emergency SNAP and can receive benefits within **seven days**. Some households in which there is a migrant or seasonal farmworker present with little to no income or assets may also be eligible for expedited benefits.

How Long Will My Benefits Last?

When you are approved for benefits, you will be certified for a certain number of months. This “certification period” could range from six to 24 months, depending on your circumstances. After this period is over, you will need to recertify to continue receiving benefits. Some households may be subject to a “mid-certification” report to confirm current circumstances or report changes, if needed. This report is due six months into your 12-month certification period. You should also report changes in address, shelter expenses, household size, income, and assets as soon as possible.

Where Can I Apply for SNAP?

Applications for SNAP can be completed online through the [District Direct Online Benefits Portal](#) or through the [District Direct mobile app](#). You can also download an application from the [DHS website](#), as well as going to the nearest [ESA Service Center](#) to pick up an application. Once you have gathered the [necessary documents](#), you can submit your application online, drop your application off at any open ESA Service Center, or email your application to info@dchunger.org.

D.C. Hunger Solutions can help with applications, recertifications, and existing benefits over the phone at 202-640-1088, and via email at: info@dchunger.org.