

D.C. SNAP 101



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

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mail:

Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
1320 Braddock Place, Room 334 Alexandria, VA 22314; or
fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
email: FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

www.dchunger.org - (202) 640-1088 - info@dchunger.org



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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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SNAP Basics

- ❑ Households
- ❑ Income
- ❑ Deductions
- ❑ General FAQs
- ❑ Specific Populations FAQs



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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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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 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 and deductions

❑ 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 those without earned income do not receive an earned income deduction.



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SNAP Income Guidelines – effective 10/01/2023 – 09/30/2024

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income for Categorical Eligibility (200% FPL)	Maximum Net Monthly Income (100% FPL)	Maximum SNAP Allotment
1	\$2,430	\$1,215	\$291
2	\$3,287	\$1,644	\$535
3	\$4,143	\$2,072	\$766
4	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$973
5	\$5,857	\$2,929	\$1,155
6	\$6,713	\$3,357	\$1,386
7	\$7,570	\$3,785	\$1,532
Each Additional Member	+\$857	+\$429	+\$219

SNAP Assets Guidelines

- ❑ Assets are typically not considered for SNAP in the District; however, applicants will be asked to complete this section on the application.
- ❑ Assets include cash, money in the bank, investments, and property.



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Deductions

- ❑ A household's benefit level is determined by net income.
- ❑ Net monthly income = gross income minus applicable deductions
- ❑ The more expenses you have, the more likely you are to be eligible and the higher your benefit level could be.



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Deductions

- ❑ Earned Income Deduction: 20% of earnings from a job
- ❑ Dependent Care Deduction: out-of-pocket dependent care expenses that are necessary for a household member to work or go to school
- ❑ Excess Shelter Deduction: for housing costs exceeding half of net income (capped at \$672 unless at least one household member is an older adult or a person with a disability)
- ❑ Child Support Deduction: for legally-obligated child support a household member pays
- ❑ Medical Expense Deduction: for out-of-pocket medical expenses greater than \$35/month (only for older adults and people with disabilities)
- ❑ Standard Utility Allowance Deduction: for households who pay utilities such as gas, electric, water, and phone)
- ❑ Standard Deduction: all households – accounts for basic costs



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General SNAP FAQs



- Do I need to work to receive SNAP benefits?
 - There are general work requirements to receive SNAP benefits in the District; however, SNAP recipients in the District are not subject to time limits based on their employment status.
- How do I get a new EBT card if mine is lost or stolen?
 - To report a lost or stolen card and/or to request a new card, you can visit an EBT Card Distribution Center or call (888) 304-9167.
- Do SNAP benefits expire?
 - SNAP benefits expire after nine months of not using your EBT card. Your monthly benefits will transfer over to the next month if you do not use them all.

General SNAP FAQs

- ❑ Do I need to repay my SNAP benefits when I find a job?
 - ❑ No. The only time you would ever need to repay SNAP benefits is if you are given too much due to an error in your application.
- ❑ Am I taking benefits from other people if I apply?
 - ❑ No. SNAP is an entitlement program, meaning anyone who qualifies can receive assistance, and you will never be taking benefits away from anyone else. Everyone deserves to eat healthy, high-quality food, and SNAP is the first line of defense against hunger in the United States.



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Application and Recertification Process

- ❑ Prescreening
- ❑ Ways to Apply
- ❑ Required Documents
- ❑ Interviews
- ❑ Processing Timelines
- ❑ Certification Periods, Mid-Certifications, and Recertifications



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Prescreening

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

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.

District Direct



[Home](#)

[Create Account](#)

[Log in](#)

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[Español](#)

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Welcome to District of Columbia Benefits Portal

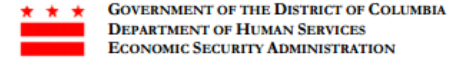
Apply for SNAP, TANF/Cash Assistance and Medical Benefits or learn more about all our offered benefits

[Apply Now](#)

[Learn More About Benefits](#)

Paper Applications

- ❑ Available in English, Spanish, and Amharic
- ❑ Can be used to apply for SNAP, TANF, and Medical Assistance
- ❑ Can be obtained online at <http://dhs.dc.gov/node/117542> or at an ESA Service Center



COMBINED APPLICATION FOR DC*
FOOD STAMPS (SNAP BENEFITS)
CASH ASSISTANCE (TANF for FAMILIES with CHILDREN or INTERIM DISABILITY ASSISTANCE for the DISABLED)
MEDICAID (for the ELDERLY or DISABLED)
HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE/ IMMIGRANT CHILD PROGRAM
*APPLICANTS FOR MEDICAID FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN (INCLUDING TANF APPLICANTS) OR A NON-DISABLED/NON-ELDERLY ADULT MUST FILE A DC HEALTH LINK APPLICATION (See Next Page)

If you live in DC, you can use this form to apply for benefits. If you need help with this form, just ask your worker or another ESA employee. You can also call (202) 727-5355. Free interpreters are available.

Please bring this to your Service Center. To find out which Center is closest to you, call (202) 727-5355. You may also mail this form to DHS/CRMU, 645 H St., NE, Washington, DC 20002.

❑ Si, hablo ESPAÑOL (SPANISH)

Si usted vive en DC, puede usar este formulario para solicitar beneficios. Si necesita ayuda con este formulario, pídala ayuda a su trabajador u otro empleado de ESA. También puede llamar al (202) 727-5355. Intérpretes gratis están disponibles.

Por favor, lleve este formulario al Centro de Servicio de su área. Para saber cuál Centro le queda más cerca, llame al (202) 727-5355. También puede enviar este formulario por correo a 645 H St., NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Questions? ¿Preguntas? 有问题嗎? 有問題嗎? 有 thắc 嗎? 有 嗎?

(202) 727-5355

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY		<input type="checkbox"/> Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Recertification
Case Name _____	Case # _____		
Date Rec'd _____	Prog. Approved _____		
Date Disp. _____	Prog. Denied _____		
ESA Combined Application: Revised: May 2015			

❑ 是，我說中文 (MANDARIN)

“如果您住在D.C.，您可以用這份表格來申請福利。如果您填寫這份表格時需要幫助，您可以向工作人員或其他IMA員工詢問。您還可以致電 (202) 727-5355 我們有免費翻譯服務。”

“請將這份表格送到您所在地區的服務中心。請向該處所最近的服務中心的地址，請致電 (202) 727-5355 您也可以將這份表格寄至 645 H St., NE Washington, DC 20002.”

❑ አዎ አማርኛ አናገራለሁ (AMHARIC)

“በዲ.ሲ. ውስጥ የሚኖሩ ከዚህ የአርዳታ ጥቅም ላይ ለማግኘት በዚህ ቅጽ ሊጠቀሙ ይችላሉ ይህንን ቅጽ ለመሙላት አርዳታ ክፍለ ጉዳይዎን የያዙትን ሠራተኛ ወይም ሌላ የአይ.ሲ.ም ነ.ሠ.ሠ. ይጠይቁ እንዲሁም በ (202) 727-5355 ለመደወል ይችላሉ ወይንም ነፃ አስተርጓሚዎች ይጠይቁ”

“እባክዎ ይህንን ቅጽ ወደ እኮሚዎ የአገልግሎት ማዕከል ይጠቀሙ ይህንን ቅጽ ለማሙላት ይጠይቁ በ (202) 727-5355 ይደውሉ ይህንን ቅጽ በፖስታ በት ጠብሉ ለ 645 H St., NE Washington, DC 20002.” ለመላክዎ ይችላሉ”

❑ Có, tôi nói VIỆT (VIETNAMESE)

“Nếu quý vị sống tại D.C., quý vị có thể dùng mẫu đơn này để xin quyền lợi. Nếu quý vị cần giúp đỡ điền đơn này, xin hỏi nhân viên xã hội của mình hoặc một nhân viên khác của IMA. Quý vị cũng có thể gọi số (202) 727-5355. Có thông dịch viên miễn phí.”

“Xin đem mẫu này tới Trung Tâm Dịch Vụ khu vực của quý vị. Để tìm hiểu xem Trung Tâm nào gần quý vị nhất, gọi (202) 727-5355. Quý vị cũng có thể gửi mẫu đơn này tới 645 H St., NE, Washington, DC 20002.”

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)

Interview Process

- ❑ Currently waived due to pandemic.
- ❑ Most applicants must attend an interview.
 - ❑ May be waived on a case-by-case basis
- ❑ We encourage clients to request a phone interview, but they can also be completed at an ESA office.
- ❑ Some clients may request a home visit.
- ❑ Applicants should bring any missing supporting documents.

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:
 - ❑ 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

Mid-Certifications

- ❑ A mid-certification is a process in which households must complete a form with simple questions about any changes in circumstances.
 - ❑ Households can complete this form online or by mail.
 - ❑ This will need to be completed every 5-6 months for most households.
 - ❑ Households **MUST** complete and return this form, even if nothing has changed.
 - ❑ Households should attach proof of any changes.
- ❑ An interim communication will be sent to households with 36-month certification periods reminding them to report any changes.

Recertifications

- ❑ A recertification is a process in which households must complete a form at the end of their certification period to continue receiving benefits.
- ❑ Households will receive a notice from ESA 60 days prior to the end of their certification period.
- ❑ This form can be completed online, on the mobile app, or on paper.

Questions?



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Facebook: @dchungersolutions

Twitter: @dchunger

Contact Information

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