

SNAP for Older Adults and People with Disabilities



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

Blake Turpin

bturpin@dchunger.org

(202) 640-1088 ext. 3042

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (833) 620-1071, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to:

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



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

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.



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

Topics to Be Covered

- ❑ Hunger and SNAP in the District
- ❑ SNAP Refresher
- ❑ Rules and FAQs for Older Adults and People with Disabilities
- ❑ Other Supports for Older Adults and People with Disabilities
- ❑ Q+A



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

Hunger and SNAP in D.C.

- ❑ Food Insecurity Among Older Adults in D.C.
- ❑ Food Insecurity Among People with Disabilities in D.C.
- ❑ SNAP in the District



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

Older Adult Food Insecurity in D.C.

- ❑ D.C. has one of the highest rates of older adult food insecurity in the nation at 12.8%.
- ❑ Around 22,000 of the District's older adults participate in SNAP, making up 16% of all SNAP participants in the District.
- ❑ Older adult food insecurity often looks different than food insecurity for other age groups.
- ❑ Black residents make up 62.5% of older adult residents in the District, and they face higher rates of food insecurity.



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

Food Insecurity Among People with Disabilities in D.C.

- ❑ Over 72,000 District residents have a disability. That is around 10.9% of residents.
- ❑ In 2022, households with one or more person with a disability made up 43.5% of SNAP households in D.C.
- ❑ According to the United States Department of Agriculture, in 2020, adults with disabilities faced food insecurity at more than twice the rate of adults without disabilities.



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

SNAP in the District



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

- ❑ Over 138,000 District residents participate in SNAP each month.
 - ❑ In Fiscal Year 2022, more than 33% of SNAP recipients were in households with at least one older adult or person with a disability.
- ❑ D.C. has a 97% participation rate.
 - ❑ However, many eligible older adults, low-wage workers, and immigrants are not enrolled.
- ❑ The average allotment in D.C. is \$188 per month per person.
 - ❑ \$102 for households with older adults and \$128 for households with non-elderly people with disabilities
- ❑ For every \$1 spent on SNAP, \$1.50 of economic activity is generated.
SNAP is a **stimulus program**.

SNAP Refresher

- ❑ Households
- ❑ Income
- ❑ Deductions
- ❑ General SNAP FAQs



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

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.



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

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.



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

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 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



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

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

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.



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

General SNAP FAQs



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

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.



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

SNAP for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

- ❑ SNAP Rules for Older Adults and People with Disabilities
- ❑ SNAP FAQs for Older Adults and People with Disabilities
- ❑ The Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

SNAP Definitions of Older Adults (60+) and People with Disabilities

- ❑ Older adults are defined as individuals aged 60 years old or older
- ❑ People with disabilities are defined as people who meet one of the following criteria:
 - ❑ Receiving federal disability or blindness payments under the Social Security Act; or
 - ❑ Receiving state disability or blindness payments based on SSI rules; or
 - ❑ Receiving a disability retirement benefit from a governmental agency because of a permanent disability; or
 - ❑ Receiving an annuity under the Railroad Retirement Act and eligible for Medicare or considered disabled under SSI; or
 - ❑ Veteran who is totally disabled, permanently homebound, or in need of regular aid and attendance; or
 - ❑ Surviving spouse or child of a veteran who is receiving VA benefits and is considered permanently disabled.

SNAP Rules for Older Adults (60+) and People with Disabilities

- ❑ Older adults (60+) and people with disabilities are exempt from the 200% gross income limit, meaning if their expenses are high, they may still be eligible for SNAP.
 - ❑ They still must meet the net income test.
- ❑ Uncapped excess shelter deduction: deduction of excess shelter costs that are more than half of the household's income after all deductions have been applied
- ❑ Medical Expense Deduction: can claim the cost of out-of-pocket medical expenses exceeding \$35/month



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

ESAP for Older Adults (60+) and People with Disabilities

- ❑ D.C. Department of Human Services (DHS) has recently been awarded an Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) waiver to simplify the SNAP process and increase participation in SNAP for older adults and people with disabilities with no **earned** income. This waiver will:
 - ❑ Extend certification periods from 24 to 36 months,
 - ❑ Waive recertification interviews,
 - ❑ Create a simplified SNAP application (still being finalized, but around 7-8 pages), and
 - ❑ Create a simplified medical deduction that would allow applicants to deduct medical expenses over \$35/mo without itemized receipts.



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

SNAP FAQs - Older Adults (60+) and People with Disabilities

- Can someone else represent me for my SNAP case?
 - Yes, you can designate an authorized representative to conduct interviews, make changes, and use your card to buy groceries for your household.
- Can I receive benefits if I lived in an assisted living facility?
 - Typically, no. However, if you are a resident of a federally-subsidized unit for older adults or if you are a person with a disability living in certain nonprofit group living arrangements, you may be eligible.



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

SNAP FAQs - Older Adults (60+) and People with Disabilities



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

- ❑ What accommodations do I have the right to receive?
 - ❑ Federal laws require DHS to effectively communicate with individuals with disabilities. This may include “auxiliary aids and services, such as Braille, large print, captioning, plain-language explanations, qualified sign language interpreters, qualified readers, qualified speech-to-speech translators, and accessible public-facing websites.” These services must be provided at no costs to the individual.
- ❑ Am I subject to asset limits?
 - ❑ SNAP applicants and recipients are not subject to asset limits in the District of Columbia.

Other Supports for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

- Federal Programs
- Local Programs
- Local Advocacy Opportunities



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

Federal Programs

- ❑ SNAP
- ❑ WIC (for grandfamilies)
- ❑ Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), also known as Grocery Plus
- ❑ Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Local Programs

- ❑ Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL)
 - ❑ Community dining sites
 - ❑ Home-delivered meals
- ❑ Department of Disability Services (DDS)
- ❑ Produce Plus
- ❑ Emergency Food/Food Banks
 - ❑ <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/>
- ❑ Local Community-Based Organizations
- ❑ Churches
- ❑ Mutual Aid Groups

Local Advocacy Opportunities

- ❑ Advocate for increasing minimum SNAP benefits for older adults and people with disabilities, as well as for programs and policies that assist older adults and people with disabilities.
 - ❑ No Senior Hungry Omnibus Amendment Act of 2021
 - ❑ Senior Nutrition and Well-Being Equity Amendment Act of 2022
- ❑ Develop relationships with older adults and people with disabilities and those who serve those communities
 - ❑ Healthcare providers, senior living facilities, nursing homes, direct service providers, legal service providers, food banks, churches, schools, etc.

Questions?



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

www.dchunger.org

Instagram: @dchungersolutions

Facebook: @dchungersolutions

Twitter: @dchunger

Contact Information

Blake Turpin

bturpin@dchunger.org

(202) 640-1088 ext. 3042