

SNAP for College and Trade School Students in D.C.



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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Topics to Be Covered

- ❑ Hunger and SNAP in the District
- ❑ SNAP Refresher
- ❑ Student Rules and FAQs
- ❑ Other Supports for Students
- ❑ Q+A



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Hunger and SNAP in D.C.

- Student Food Insecurity in D.C.
- SNAP in the District



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Student Food Insecurity



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- ❑ D.C. is home to over 100,000 students enrolled in institutions of higher education.
- ❑ Nationally, according to the Hope Center, in fall 2020,
 - ❑ nearly 3 in 5 students experienced basic needs insecurity.
 - ❑ 39% of students at two-year and 29% of students at four-year institutions experienced food insecurity.
 - ❑ rates are higher for Black, Latine, and Indigenous students.
 - ❑ rates are higher for LGBTQ+ students.
- ❑ Federal nutrition and food programs are crucial to addressing food insecurity; however, many may forgo these programs due to myths about access, strict barriers, and lack of knowledge about the programs and their eligibility.

SNAP in the District

- ❑ Over 138,000 District residents participate in SNAP each month.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ For every \$1 spent on SNAP, \$1.50 of economic activity is generated. SNAP is a **stimulus program**.



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SNAP Refresher

Households

Income

Deductions



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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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SNAP Income Guidelines

❑ Two income guidelines:

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

❑ Must be at or 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 and deductions

❑ Must be at or below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines



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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

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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SNAP for College and Trade School Students

- ❑ SNAP Rules for College and Trade School Students
- ❑ SNAP FAQs for College and Trade School Students



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SNAP Rules for College and Trade School Students

- ❑ In addition to the income and citizenship requirements, students enrolled full-time in an institution of higher education (IHE) must **also** meet a student exemption to be eligible for SNAP.
- ❑ An individual is considered to be enrolled in an IHE if they are enrolled in:
 - ❑ A business, technical, trade, or vocational school and in a curriculum that normally requires a high school diploma or equivalent for enrollment, **OR**
 - ❑ A regular curriculum at a college or university that offers degrees regardless of whether a high school diploma is required.
- ❑ Students enrolled in an IHE less than half-time do not have to meet a student exemption.

Student Exemptions

Demographic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are under age 18 or are 50 or older.• Have a physical or mental disability.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work at least 20 hours per week in paid employment.• Participate in a state- or federally-financed work-study program.• Participate in an on-the-job training program.
TANF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).• Are enrolled in a TANF Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program.
Dependent Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Care for a child under the age of 6.• Care for a child aged 6 to 11 and lack the necessary childcare enabling you to attend school and work 20 hours a week or participate in work-study.• Are a single parent caring for a child under 12.
Other Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend or assigned to participate in a college or other institution of higher education through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SNAP Employment & Training program• A program under Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) (PL 113-128)• A Trade Adjustment Assistance Program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974

SNAP FAQs – College and Trade School Students

- ❑ Can I get SNAP benefits if I live in a dorm? Can I get SNAP benefits if I participate in a meal plan?
 - ❑ To be eligible for SNAP, you cannot live in a dormitory AND participate in a meal plan that provides two or more meals per day. If you live in a dorm but do not get the majority of your meals through a meal plan, you may be eligible for SNAP.
- ❑ What state should I apply for benefits in if I'm an out-of-state student?
 - ❑ You should apply for SNAP benefits where you currently reside. For example, if your family lives in Virginia, but you live and attend school in D.C., you should apply for benefits in D.C.

SNAP FAQs – College and Trade School Students

- ❑ Can I get SNAP if I live with my parents?
 - ❑ If you live at home with your parents and are under age 22, you must apply for SNAP along with your parents, even if you buy and prepare food separately from them.
- ❑ Can I get SNAP if I live with roommates?
 - ❑ If you regularly buy and prepare food with roommates, you should apply together. Otherwise, you can apply separately.

SNAP FAQs – College and Trade School Students

- ❑ Are my student loans counted as income?
 - ❑ Educational loans funded through the Department of Education and some parts of other student grants, loans, scholarship, and fellowship are not counted as income for the purposes of determining SNAP eligibility. If you get private loans or scholarships, they may be counted as income.
- ❑ Can I use SNAP benefits on campus?
 - ❑ Campus stores can be approved to accept SNAP benefits if they meet certain requirements. SNAP cannot be used to pay for meals in a cafeteria.

Other Supports for Students

□ Local Programs

□ Strategies for Addressing Student Hunger



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Local Programs

- ❑ Emergency Food/Food Banks
 - ❑ <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/>
 - ❑ Campus Food Pantries
- ❑ Local Community-Based Organizations
- ❑ Churches
- ❑ Mutual Aid Groups
- ❑ Students may be eligible to receive Medicaid through the District of Columbia.

Strategies for Addressing Student Hunger

- ❑ Establish a campus hunger office to serve as a one-stop shop to screen students for food insecurity and share resources with students experiencing food and/or basic needs insecurity.
 - ❑ Become a trusted messenger for students to address concerns and share information.
- ❑ Regularly share food resources and SNAP information with students through materials and resource guides that already go out (e.g., with housing packets, meal plan information).

Strategies for Addressing Student Hunger

- ❑ Establish meal swipe donation/swipe out hunger programs.
- ❑ Challenge narratives around student hunger (e.g., eating ramen and pizza is part of the college experience).
- ❑ Consider the experiences of off-campus students in addressing student hunger.

Questions?



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