

# SNAP Facts

## Concerning Legal Immigrants

Households with legal immigrants may be eligible for SNAP if they:

- ❖ Have been residing in the U.S. for 5 years as a qualified immigrant or,
- ❖ Legal immigrant children, no matter when they came to the U.S., or
- ❖ Legal permanent residents who have worked in the U.S. for at least 10 years
- ❖ Are receiving disability benefits regardless of their date of entry or,
- ❖ Immigrants who came to the U.S. as a refugee, asylee, or withholding of deportation, and certain other immigrants regardless of when they came to the U.S., or
- ❖ Are serving or did serve in the U.S. Armed Forces or

**Children who are citizens may be eligible even if their parent does not qualify.**

You will have to provide documents about all household members when you apply for your children, but all information is kept confidential.

**Receiving SNAP won't affect your application for citizenship.**

An immigrant will not be deported, denied entry to the U.S., or denied permanent status or a "green card" because he or she or their family receives SNAP. The U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services does not consider you a "Public Charge" if you receive SNAP.

**SNAP interviews can be done over the phone or in person at DHS.**

Households may pick up an application at a local Department of Human Services (DHS) office, may call to receive one by mail, or have someone else pick up an application for them. Once the application is completed, mail it back or drop it off in person as soon as possible. A telephone interview may be conducted if the head of the household is unable to visit a DHS office.

**You can get SNAP benefits even if you own a car or a house.**

For most people, SNAP benefits no longer have a resource test. That means that the value of your car or house, life insurance or savings account does not impact your eligibility for SNAP benefits.

Still have questions about SNAP? Call toll free:

**1-866-306-0270**

## INFORMATION REGARDING SPONSOR DEEMING

### What is Sponsor Deeming?

Legal Permanent Residents applying for SNAP benefits are often subject to sponsor deeming. This means that if you have a sponsor who signed an *affidavit of support* in order for you to come to the U.S., the Department of Human Services will require that you provide information regarding your sponsor's income to determine if you are eligible for SNAP. When calculating your monthly income, DHS will add a portion of your sponsor's income to the income that you report for yourself.

### Who may be subject to sponsor deeming?

Legal Permanent Residents who came to the United States after December 19, 1997 and whose sponsor signed an *affidavit of support*.

### Are there exceptions to this rule?

**Yes. The following individuals are exempt from Sponsor Deeming:**

1. Legal Permanent Residents who do not have sponsors such as refugees and asylees.
2. Legal Permanent Residents whose sponsors DID NOT sign an affidavit of support such as those who obtained their green cards before December 19, 1997.
3. Legal Permanent Residents who were sponsored by an organization and not an individual.
4. Legal Permanent Residents under the age of 18.
5. Legal Permanent Residents who live in the same household as their sponsor.
6. Legal Permanent Residents who have been battered by their spouse or parents, or whose children have been battered, and do not live with the batterer.
7. Legal Permanent Residents that qualify for an *Indigence Exception*:
  - Legal Permanent Residents whose household income including the support actually received from the sponsor is below 130% of the poverty level. (This includes Legal Permanent Residents who are not receiving any support from their sponsor(s))

*In this case, the state agency does not need to verify a sponsor's income but is required to report the name of the Legal Permanent Resident and the sponsor to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.*

8. Legal Permanent Residents whose deeming period has ended:
  - The Legal Permanent Resident is now a naturalized citizen or,
  - The Legal Permanent Resident has worked 40 quarters of work in the U.S. or,
  - The Legal Permanent Resident's sponsor dies or permanently leaves the United States.

**Note:** Legal permanent residents in the household who are NOT eligible for SNAP benefits because they have not completed 5 years of residency, are not subject to sponsor deeming.