What is the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program

Do you know someone who needs a little help buying food?

While many Rhode Islanders participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), thousands of our neighbors are unaware of their eligibility or need help in order to access benefits. If you know someone with a low-income who could use a little extra help purchasing food, encourage them to apply for SNAP.

To find out if you might be eligible, contact the SNAP Outreach Project.

Ten restaurants have been approved by the Food and Nutrition Service (USDA) to participate in the pilot Restaurant Meals Program.

Subway

- 255 Weybossett Street, Providence
- 2 Kennedy Plaza, Providence
- 719 Westminster Street, Providence
- 583 Elmwood Avenue, Providence
- 962 Cranston Street, Cranston
- 483 Clinton Street, Woonsocket
- 104 Broadway Unit 1A, Newport
- 614 Pawtucket Avenue, Pawtucket
- 310 Broad Street, Central Falls
- 258 Post Road, Westerly (Walmart)

Call the toll-free information line:
1-866-306-0270
www.eatbettertoday.com

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**What is SNAP?**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is a federal program that provides nutritional assistance to low-income households. SNAP supplements the food budgets of families and individuals so they may purchase more and higher quality foods using the EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card.

The EBT card can be used to pay for food at supermarkets and convenience stores, as well as some farmer’s markets and food co-ops. Now, some eligible SNAP recipients can also use their benefits in participating restaurants (see next panel).

To learn more about the Restaurant Meals Program, call the URI SNAP Outreach Project 1-866-306-0270 or visit www.eatbettertoday.com

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**What is the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program?**

As of August 2011, some SNAP recipients are eligible to use their SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to purchase meals at approved restaurants.

This program is available ONLY if the SNAP household meets one of the following criteria:

- **Homeless**: the household must lack a fixed and regular nighttime residence, or be living in a shelter, a halfway house, or a place not designed for sleeping. This includes those who are temporarily staying in the home of another person for 90 days or less.

- **Elderly or disabled**: the household must have only members who are age 60 or older, or designated disabled by a government entity, or an elderly or disabled individual and his or her spouse.

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**How to use the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program**

If you meet the eligibility criteria, you can use your EBT card at participating restaurants.

Participating restaurants will have a “fork & knife” decal on the door or window.

Please make sure you have enough money on your EBT card before ordering. If your EBT card is declined, you may also use cash, RI Works funds, or a credit card to pay for the balance.

Purchasing a meal is the same as using your EBT card at a grocery store. You will be asked to swipe your EBT card and enter your PIN. You do not need to show identification. You will not be charged tax or tip for your meal, and you may take advantage of any sales, promotions or coupons the restaurant is offering.