

What is SNAP fraud?

SNAP fraud includes:

- Someone using a card they are not authorized to use
- Purposefully, knowingly providing false information to DHS
- Receiving SNAP benefits in more than one state at the same time
- Buying or selling EBT cards
- Buying items with an EBT card and returning those items for cash
- Buying items with an EBT card and selling those items

Clients found to be fraudulent may be:

- Barred from receiving SNAP benefits (penalties vary from one year to a lifetime ban)
- Fined up to \$250,000 –or–
- Imprisoned up to 20 years.

If a client receives more SNAP benefits than they were entitled to, those SNAP benefits must be repaid.

Overpayments must be repaid whether due to fraud, client error or DHS error.

Phone numbers and assistance

DHS Information Line

1-855-697-4347

DHS Overpayment Collection Line

877-264-5770

DHS Fraud Unit

401-574-8175

EBT Transaction Assistance

888-979-9939

URI SNAP Outreach Project

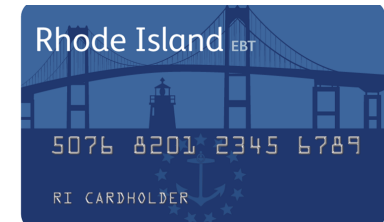
1-866-306-0270

The URI SNAP Outreach Project helps low-income individuals and families throughout Rhode Island access benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP.



Protecting Benefits June. 2017

Using and protecting your SNAP benefits



URI SNAP Outreach Project

1-866-306-0270

www.eatbettertoday.com

The URI SNAP Outreach Project helps low-income individuals and families throughout Rhode Island access the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

What can you buy with SNAP benefits?

SNAP benefits can **only** be used to buy food.



SNAP benefits can be used to buy any food items except for hot-prepared food. People use SNAP benefits for fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy products, cereals, canned goods, frozen items and treats, such as cake or cookies.

Foods purchased with SNAP benefits cannot be resold.

SNAP benefits can be used at authorized supermarkets, grocery stores, corner stores, convenience stores, farmers markets, food co-ops in any state.

SNAP benefits cannot be used to buy pet food, alcohol, tobacco, paper products, or any non-food items. SNAP benefits cannot be used as a payment for anything else. SNAP benefits cannot be used for rent.

How to use and safeguard your SNAP benefits?

SNAP benefits are distributed through an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. Benefits can only be accessed when an EBT card is swiped at a point of sale machine. EBT cards can only be used with a PIN (Personal Identification Number). A signature match or photo ID are not proof of card ownership.



Only share your PIN with people you trust. EBT cards cannot be used without your PIN.

If someone uses your card without your permission, you cannot get that money reimbursed because they could only use it with your PIN.

SNAP benefits cannot be accessed via ATMs, or the internet.

If you lose your card, you may get a replacement card. If you request more than 3 replacement cards in a year, you will be referred to the fraud unit of DHS.

Who can use your SNAP benefits?

Anyone in a SNAP household may use that household's EBT card. A card is given to the head of household and may also be given to another adult household member.

One household may not have more than two cards but additional household members may use it.



DHS defines a SNAP household as people who live together, purchase and prepare their food together. Sometimes, people who live in the same house have different SNAP cases.

SNAP recipients may request an additional card to be given to an Authorized Representative. Appointing an authorized representative gives permission to someone outside your SNAP household to use a card connected to your account to go shopping for you. It is usually used by someone who is physically unable to go shopping for themselves. A staff member of a group living facility can be authorized to use the EBT cards of their residents.