



# SNAP Facts for People with Disabilities



Low-income individuals with a disability may be eligible for nutrition assistance through SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program).

The Department of Human Services (DHS) uses the term “disabled” to describe an individual who has been determined disabled by a government entity and receives payment for their disability (for example, SSI, SSDI, Veterans disability benefits). Most of the facts below apply if any member of the SNAP household is considered to be disabled.

## **Application assistance is available.**

Applicants can call the SNAP Outreach hotline, 1-866-306-0270, to ask questions about SNAP, eligibility guidelines, and how to apply. SNAP Outreach workers are also available at community agencies throughout the state for one-on-one help.

## **There are alternatives to going to the Department of Human Services to receive benefits.**

Paper applications may be mailed or faxed to the office or applicants may apply on-line at [www.foodstamps.ri.gov](http://www.foodstamps.ri.gov). Every SNAP applicant must have an interview with a DHS staff member to determine eligibility. Every applicant has the right to choose an in person or phone interview. If an applicant is uncomfortable or unable to complete the interview, he or she may choose a trusted friend or relative to complete the interview for him or her. This person is called an *authorized representative*.

## **DHS will deduct a portion of the medical expenses of the disabled individual when determining eligibility.**

Applicants with disabilities may be able to have a portion of their medical expenses deducted from their income. This could increase the amount of SNAP benefit the household is able to receive. Medical expenses may include prescription costs, doctor co-pays, insurance premiums, transportation costs and medical equipment.

## **SNAP benefits are available to individuals with disabilities even if they have a car, house or bank account.**

Most of the time, SNAP eligibility no longer requires a resource (asset) test. That means that the value of a car or house, life insurance policy, retirement account or education savings fund does not count when SNAP eligibility is determined.

**Individuals living in group homes can be eligible for SNAP benefits.**

Disabled individuals who live in certain non-profit group living arrangements may be eligible for SNAP benefits. This may be true even though the group home prepares their meals for them.

**Interpretation services are available at DHS for clients who are blind or hearing impaired.**

All applicants have the right to bring anyone of their choosing to their interview for assistance. If an applicant does not have someone who can provide that assistance, DHS is required by law to provide an interpreter or offer accommodations. The request should be listed on the application but may also be made at any time before the interview. DHS is responsible to pay the cost of the assistance.

**SNAP recipients with disabilities who live on a fixed income will recertify every 2 years.**

Most of the time, households receiving SNAP benefits must fill out paperwork with DHS every six months to show they are still eligible. In households where all adult members are elderly or disabled, the Department of Human Services will assign this household a 24-month certification period. That means they will fill out paper work every two years instead of every six months.

**SNAP individuals with disabilities may be authorized to use the Restaurant Meals Program.**

Some individuals with disabilities may not be able to prepare their own meals. Those individuals may use their EBT card at select Subway restaurants. Call the URI SNAP Outreach Hotline, 1-866-306-0270 for more information about this program

URI SNAP Outreach Project: 1-866-306-0270

[www.eatbettertoday.com](http://www.eatbettertoday.com)