

SNAP Facts

Concerning Elderly Households

SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

SNAP is the new name of the Food Stamp Program and its main purpose is to provide recipients with additional resources to purchase nutritious food. SNAP increases a household's ability to buy more nutritious foods by supplementing their food budget in order to maintain their health.

The minimum SNAP benefit has increased. No one gets just \$10 anymore.

The minimum SNAP benefit is \$16 a month but the average benefit is \$91 per month per person.

You can get SNAP benefits even if you own a car or a house or have a bank account.

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.

Interviews for SNAP benefits can be done over the phone or in person.

If a person is not able to go to the food stamp office, he or she may request a telephone interview. The person may also ask a relative, pastor, neighbor, etc., to attend the interview as an authorized representative. Applicants for and recipients of SSI may also apply for SNAP benefits at the Social Security Office.

The new SNAP application for seniors is only 4 pages.

If all the people in your household are elderly you are able to use a new shorter application.

DHS will deduct a portion of your medical expenses in determining your eligibility.

Medical expenses that exceed \$35 a month may be deducted unless an insurance company or someone who is not a household member pays for them.

There are enough SNAP benefits for everyone who is eligible.

SNAP is an entitlement program. Anyone who applies and qualifies will receive benefits. Receiving benefits does not take away from anyone else in need.

Once you are found eligible, and living on a fixed income, you only recertify every 2 years.

If all adult household members are elderly or disabled, the State agency may assign this household a 24-month certification period.

You can use SNAP benefits and still participate in other programs.

Households can receive SNAP and still get meals-on-wheels, senior farmers market vouchers, senior meal sites and utilize food pantries. In fact, households who are currently paying cash for their meals can save money because SNAP benefits can be used to purchase the meals.

Participating in SNAP is a confidential process.

SNAP and the SNAP Outreach Project believe in confidentiality and respect your privacy. Outreach workers can meet privately with applicants to avoid a large community setting, which may cause discomfort. To set up a private appointment, call at 1-866-306-0270.

Still have questions about SNAP? Call toll free:

1-866-306-0270