

SNAP Facts Concerning Working and Recently Unemployed 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 low income households with additional resources to purchase nutritious food. SNAP increases a recipient's ability to buy more nutritious foods by supplementing their food budget in order to maintain their health.

If you or someone in your household is working, you still may qualify for SNAP benefits.

Many individuals working full or part time and earning a low wage may be eligible for SNAP benefits. SNAP can help them buy the nutritious food they need to live a healthy life. Additionally, SNAP benefits can sometimes serve as a critical income support when household members have been laid off from work or have had their working hours reduced.

You may still be eligible for SNAP benefits once you close your FIP/RI Works case.

Many families leave cash assistance thinking that they are no longer eligible for SNAP benefits once they find work. The purpose of SNAP is to provide recipients with resources to purchase nutritious food. Just like the childcare or medical assistance programs, participating in SNAP can help low-income families transition from cash assistance to self-sufficiency.

SNAP benefits are a supplement to your food budget.

Your monthly benefit is not intended to be your only resource for purchasing food. However, using SNAP can free up cash normally spent on food for non-food purchases.

There are enough SNAP benefits for everyone who is eligible.

SNAP is a federally funded program that is budgeted to help EVERYONE who is eligible. Anyone who qualifies for benefits will receive them. Receiving benefits does not take away from anyone else in need. In fact, SNAP benefits help everyone; you, your grocer and the local economy.

Single people without dependants who are unemployed may be eligible for SNAP benefits.

If you are an able-bodied adult between the ages of 18 and 49, are unemployed, and don't have children, you may still be eligible for SNAP benefits. Eligibility is based on income.

You do not have to go to the DHS office to apply for SNAP benefits.

Interested applicants can apply on-line at www.foodstamps.ri.gov or call our toll free number (1-866-306-0270) and request a paper application that can be mailed to the Department of Human Services. Each new application requires an interview with a DHS staff person, but applicants can request that the interview be conducted by telephone.

Application assistance IS available.

We know that the application process can be difficult, but the benefits are well worth it. The average amount received by a family in RI is \$91 per month per person. Additionally, SNAP Outreach workers can assist in making the process a bit easier. Workers are available at community agencies throughout the state. Call us if you need assistance completing your application.

Need Help? Still have questions about the SNAP? Call toll free:

1-866-306-0270