

ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD

SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Eligibility

Those Eligible:

- Individual living alone or individual living with others but eating separately
- Parents, minor children, and adult children under 22 (must be included in their parents' assistance group) living in same household
- Income is under 130% Federal Poverty Level Guidelines
- Non-citizens who have lived in the US for more than 5 years

Not Eligible:

- Non-citizens who have lived in the US under 5 years
- Intentional program violators
- Social security failure
- Failure to cooperate with JOBS
- Parole violator or fleeing felony
- Children in foster care
- Individuals housed in public institutions
- Strikers
- Ineligible students

What SNAP Benefits Can Buy

Can Buy: Fruits and Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dairy Products, Breads, Cereals, other foods such as snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages, seeds and plants that will produce food for the household to eat

Cannot Buy: Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco, Vitamins, Medicine, Supplements, prepared foods for immediate consumption (such as ready to eat wrap, pre-made salad, warm rotisserie chicken), hot foods, nonfood items such as paper products, household supplies, hygiene items, cosmetics, and petfood

Income

Individuals must be under the 130% Federal Poverty Level and then a budget is completed to determine the amount of SNAP allotted. (Gross monthly income of 130% of the federal poverty level)

130% Federal Poverty Level for:

Families of 1: \$1,473

Families of 2: \$1,984

Families of 3: \$2,495

Families of 4: \$3,007

Families of 5: \$3,518

Families of 6: \$4,029

Families of 7: \$4,541

Families of 8: \$5,052

Each additional over 8 is +\$512

Student Exemptions

Individuals enrolled in an institution of higher learning at least half time are considered ineligible for SNAP benefits unless they meet one of the following Student Exemptions:

- Working and paid for a minimum of 20 hours per week
- Be participating in a State or federally financed work study program

- Age 17 or younger or age 50 or older
- Physically or mentally unable to work
- Receiving TANF
- Enrolled as a result of participation in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program
- Be participating in an on-the-job training program
- Be responsible for the care of a dependent household member under the age of 6
- Be responsible for the care of a dependent household member who has reached the age of 6 but is under age 12 and adequate childcare is not available
- Be a single parent and responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of 12

For students who are participating in a State or federally financed work study program during the regular school year:

- To qualify under this provision, the student must be approved for work study at the time of application for SNAP benefits, the work study must be approved for the school term, and the student must anticipate actually working during that time. The exemption shall begin the month in which the school term begins or the month work study is approved, whichever is later. Once begun, the exemption shall continue until the end of the month in which the school term ends, or it becomes known that the student has refused an assignment.
- The exemption shall not continue between terms when there is a break of a full month or longer unless the student is participating in work study during the break or qualifies for SNAP in another way.

How to Apply

All applications are to be processed within 30 days from the date the agency receives the application. Paper and electronic applications are screened, and appointments are scheduled for SNAP. The intake interviews are completed by phone. Each eligibility program is typically a one-year certification period and will require a reapplication within the 11th month of certification. Adults in a household who are considered able-bodied adults without dependents may be subject to work, education, or training requirements to receive SNAP benefits.

Paper Applications: [JFS SNAP Form 7200](#). Print the application from the website. Complete all information. Submit completed application in mail to local JFS (For Cuyahoga County: 1641 Payne Ave Ste. 520 Cleveland OH 44114.)



Phone Applications: Call 844.640.6446 Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm.

Web Portal Applications: benefits.ohio.gov. Click Apply Now option.

Verification Documentation

Criteria of Eligibility	How can it be verified?
Proof of Social Security Number	Social Security Card
Proof of Income	Last 30 days paycheck stubs, tax records, bank statements, employer statements, award letters, w2s, 1099s, or child support notices

Criteria of Eligibility	How can it be verified?
Identity	State ID/Driver license, voter registration card, US Passport, military ID, or school ID for all household members
Citizenship	Birth certificate, citizenship/naturalization documents, green card, employment authorization card, U.S. passport, or military records
Proof of residency	Current rent receipt or lease with full legal name and address, letter from landlord verifying residence, a voter registration card, or mortgage records
Medical Expenses	For elderly or disabled household members, copies of medical, dental, or mental health care bills and statements. Can also include expenses for prescription drugs, prescription eyeglasses, hearing aids, service animals, prosthetics, or dentures
Household Expenses	Mortgage statements, copies of rental receipts, copies of payment for residential housing, proof of homeowner's insurance, or property tax records. Also include copies of basic utility bills – gas, electricity, water, sewer, and telephone bills
Proof of any Disabilities	Medical records, documentation of diagnosis, or a letter from your household member's physician outlining the specific disability
Proof of School Attendance	School schedule
Any childcare or dependent care costs	Receipts for payments for the actual costs for the care of children or other dependents when necessary for a household member to accept or continue employment, attend training, or pursue education which is preparatory to employment

You were approved. What now?

Benefit amounts are determined based on household size, expenses, and resources. Household size includes the number of people in your household who purchase and prepare food together. Household expenses include your rent or mortgage, gas, electric, water, sewer, phone, and medical expenses as well as any child support or childcare payments. Household resources include cash, savings, and stocks. The average monthly SNAP payment per recipient is approximately \$246.

Maximum Food Assistance Allotments

Families of 1: \$281

Families of 2: \$516

Families of 3: \$740

Families of 4: \$939

Families of 5: \$1116
Families of 6: \$1339

Families of 7: \$1480
Families of 8: \$1691
Each additional over 8 is +\$211

Once you receive your Ohio Direction Card, you must activate it. Call 1.866.386.3071 to activate and create a PIN. You will need your 16-digit number from the front of your card, your social security number, and your date of birth to activate. You will receive your benefit monthly automatically to your card. It will be loaded onto your Ohio Direction Card on a regular assigned date sometime between the first and the 20th of the month.

You can use this card like a debit or credit card where SNAP/EBT is accepted. You can see how much is left on your card at the bottom of your receipt when you check-out or by calling 1.866.386.3071. The Oh SNAP app (free to download on the App Store or Google Play) provides information on SNAP Basics, Applying for SNAP, Keeping SNAP Benefits, Using your EBT Card, more food resources, and SNAP Smart Tips. You can also go to <https://www.joinproviders.com/> or download the free Providers mobile app to see nearby stores and farmers markets that take EBT and check your balance online.