

## **SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** **2024 Eligibility**

### **Who is in a SNAP household?**

- Everyone who lives together AND purchases and prepares meals together is grouped as one SNAP household.
- Some people who live together, such as spouses and most children under age 22, are included in the same SNAP household, even if they purchase and prepare meals separately.
- If a person is 60 years of age or older and unable to purchase and prepare meals separately because of permanent disability, the person and the person's spouse may be in a separate SNAP household if the others they live with do not have very much income (no more than 165 percent of the poverty level).

### **Non-Citizens**

- The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 limits eligibility for SNAP benefits to U.S. citizens and certain lawfully present non-citizens. Generally, to qualify for SNAP, non-citizens must meet one of the following criteria:
  - o Have lived in the United States for at least 5 years
  - o Be receiving disability-related assistance or benefits
  - o Be children under 18.

### **Are students eligible for SNAP?**

Generally, students attending an institution of higher education more than half-time are only eligible for SNAP if they meet an exemption. The institution of higher education determines what is considered 'half-time' enrollment. Students who meet an exemption must also meet all other SNAP eligibility requirements. If you are enrolled less than half-time, the student restrictions on SNAP eligibility do not apply to you. If you are a student and you meet SNAP eligibility requirements, you may be eligible for SNAP if you meet one of the following exemptions:

- Work at least 20 hours a week in paid employment
- Participate in a state or federally-financed work-study program
- Are under age 18 or are age 50 or older
- Are physically or mentally unfit
- Care for a child under the age of 6
- Care for a child aged 6 to 11 and lack the necessary childcare enabling you to attend school and work 20 hours a week or participate in work-study
- Are a single parent enrolled full-time in college and taking care of a child under 12
- Receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

### **I'm on a campus meal plan. Can I still get SNAP?**

If a meal plan covers less than half of your meals, you may be eligible for SNAP.

### **What are the SNAP income limits?**

To qualify for SNAP, households have to pass both a gross income, or initial eligibility, test as well as a net income eligibility test. Ohio put a state option into place effective October 1 that raised the gross income level for SNAP from 130% to 200% of the Federal Poverty

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Level. Gross Monthly Income Limit is equal to total take home pay per month. Net Monthly Income Limit is equal to total take home after deductions. Deductions can include rent/mortgage payments, childcare costs, medical expenses, costs fuel to heat and cook with, electricity cost, water fees, basic fees for one telephone, and more.

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income Limit (200 percent of poverty)	Net Monthly Income Limit
1	\$2,510	\$1,255
2	\$3,407	\$1,704
3	\$4,304	\$2,152
4	\$5,200	\$2,600
Each additional member	+\$897	+\$449

### What are the SNAP work requirements?

In general, people must meet work requirements to be eligible for SNAP. These work requirements include registering for work, not voluntarily quitting a job or reducing hours, and taking a job if offered. Able-bodied adults without dependents are required to work for at least 20 hours per week to receive SNAP benefits for more than 3 months in a 36-month period. Some special groups may not be subject to these requirements including children, seniors, veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals 24 or younger and in foster care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, pregnant women, and people who are exempt for physical or mental health reasons.

### What resources can I have and still get SNAP benefits?

Currently, households may have \$3,000 in countable resources (such as cash or money in a bank account). However, certain resources are not counted when determining eligibility for SNAP. These include a home and lot, resources for people who receive SSI, resources for people who receive TANF, and most retirement and pension plans.

### How Do I Apply for SNAP

There are various ways to apply for SNAP. Please choose the one that is best for you.

1. Online through the Self-Service Portal Website: [benefits.ohio.gov](http://benefits.ohio.gov)
2. Submit a hard copy in person at a Neighborhood Family Service Center Location. The closest to campus is Jane Edna Hunter 3955 Euclid Ave Cleveland OH 44115 and paper forms are available at the location. A blank copy of the form can also be downloaded at [www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/](http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/), search for form number 07221.
3. Mail the paper form to 1641 Payne Avenue Cleveland OH 44114
4. Email a copy of the form as an attachment to [cjfsdocs@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:cjfsdocs@jfs.ohio.gov)
5. Drop off at any CJFS Document Drop-Off location

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank Client Help Specialists can assist with over-the-phone applications for SNAP. Calls are free and confidential. Call 216.738.2067 to receive support.

### 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
<b>Identity</b>	State ID/Driver license, voter registration card, US Passport, military ID, or school ID for all household members
<b>Citizenship</b>	Birth certificate, citizenship/naturalization documents, green card, employment authorization card, U.S. passport, or military records
<b>Proof of residency</b>	Current rent receipt or lease with full legal name and address, letter from landlord verifying residence, a voter registration card, or mortgage records
<b>Medical Expenses</b>	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
<b>Household Expenses</b>	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
<b>Proof of any Disabilities</b>	Medical records, documentation of diagnosis, or a letter from your household member's physician outlining the specific disability
<b>Proof of School Attendance</b>	School schedule and letter from financial aid
<b>Any childcare or dependent care costs</b>	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 that is preparatory to employment

### **What happens once I apply for SNAP?**

In most cases, once you submit your application, Jobs and Family Services will process it and send you a notice telling you whether you are eligible for benefits within 30 days. Check your [benefits.ohio.gov](http://benefits.ohio.gov) for notifications if you applied online. During the 30 days, you most likely will need to complete an eligibility interview and give proof (verification) of the information you provided. The interview is typically completed over the telephone. If you are found eligible, you will receive benefits based on the date you submitted your application.

**How much could I receive in SNAP benefits?**

People in Household	Maximum Monthly Allotment
1	\$292
2	\$536
3	\$768
4	\$975
5	\$1,158
6	\$1,390
7	\$1,536
8	\$1,756
Each additional person	+\$220

**How do I receive SNAP benefits?**

If you are found eligible, you will receive SNAP benefits on an Electronic Benefits Transfer card, which works like a debit card. Benefits are automatically loaded into your account each month. You can use your EBT card to buy groceries at authorized food stores and retailers. Once you receive your Ohio Direction Card (EBT 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 on your card. It will be loaded onto your Ohio Direction Card on a regular assigned date.

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.

If you are found eligible, you will receive a notice that tells you how long you will receive SNAP benefits for; this is called your certification period. Before the certification period ends, you will receive another notice that says you must recertify to continue receiving benefits. Cuyahoga County JFS will provide you with information about how to recertify.