

# Students: Do you need help affording food? You may be able to get help through SNAP!

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- ✓ **What is SNAP?** SNAP is a program that provides benefits through an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card (like a debit card) that you can use to buy groceries at most grocery stores, big box stores, corner stores, and even at some online retailers.
- ✓ **How much are SNAP benefits?** Benefits are determined based on the number of people you live with (your “household”), income, and some expenses such as rent. You can receive up to the maximum benefit for your household size:

Maximum SNAP Benefits, October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022	
Household Size	Maximum Monthly SNAP Benefit*
1	\$250
2	\$459
3	\$658
4	\$835

\*The maximum benefit changes each Oct 1

- ✓ **Who is eligible for SNAP?** Everyone applying for SNAP must have income below the income limits and meet other eligibility criteria. If you are attending an institution of higher education (such as college, university, or trade school) more than half-time, **you must meet one of the exemptions below to qualify.** There are also additional exemptions in place during COVID-19.
- ✓ **How do I get more information?** You can find more information on SNAP in the District here: <https://dhs.dc.gov/service/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>.
- **How can I apply?** There are several options to apply. When you apply, you will need to answer questions about you and the people you live with to determine if you are eligible. Submitting any proof of your eligibility, such as a copy of your ID to verify identity or pay stubs to verify income, will help speed up the application process.
  - Online at <https://districtdirect.dc.gov/>
  - Using the District Direct mobile app
  - Using the paper application (<https://dhs.dc.gov/page/apply-recertify-benefits>), which you can fax, mail, or drop off in person
  - In person at a Service Center. To find one, visit <https://dhs.dc.gov/service/find-service-center-near-you> or call **(202) 727-5355** or for TTY/TDD call 711 / (855) 532-5465
- ✓ **What happens after I apply?** Once you submit your SNAP application, you will receive a phone call from the District for a brief interview to review your eligibility. You will be asked to provide proof of certain items, such as your identity and income. If you are approved for SNAP, you will receive your EBT card in the mail, which you can then start using to buy food.

## College Student Eligibility and Exemptions

If you are between attending college or other institute of higher learning at least half-time, **you must meet at least one of the following exemptions** to be eligible for SNAP in addition to meeting regular eligibility requirements:

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- Are under age 18 or are age 50 or older
- Participate in federally or state-funded work-study program or an on-the-job training program
- Work for pay at least 20 hours per week
- Have a physical or mental disability or condition that makes you unable to work
- Care for a child under the age of 6; OR care for a child aged 6-11 if you can't find childcare; OR are a single parent full-time student caring for a child under age 12
- Are placed in school through certain job training programs
- Receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits

### **Temporary Expanded Student Exemptions During COVID-19:**

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, SNAP eligibility for certain college students has been expanded through the end of the public health emergency declaration. You may be eligible for SNAP if you meet one of these exemptions, in addition to any of the ongoing exemptions listed above:

- You are eligible to participate in state or federally financed work study during the regular school year but are not actually participating. Ask your financial aid office for proof.
- You have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0 in the current academic year. Students receive an EFC after completing the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). You may find the EFC on your financial aid award letter, Student Aid Report, or ask your institution's financial aid office.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **What can I buy with SNAP?**

Most food that can be prepared where you live can be purchased with SNAP benefits; alcohol, tobacco, and hot prepared foods cannot be purchased with SNAP.

#### **Do I have to show proof that I meet an exemption?**

Yes. For example, if you are participating in work study programs, you will need to show proof such as a financial aid award letter.

#### **Can I receive SNAP if I'm living with my parents?**

If you are under age 22 and living with your parents, you can apply for SNAP, but your parents' income and other information would be considered along with yours to determine eligibility.

#### **Can I be eligible for SNAP if I'm using a meal plan?**

If you are living in a dorm and have a meal plan that pays for over half of your meals, you cannot be eligible for SNAP.

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## **Do I have to live and study in the District to be eligible for SNAP in the District?**

To receive SNAP in the District of Columbia (District), you must live in the District while you are receiving SNAP, and show proof such as identification or utility bill that has your address. If you reside in the District, you can be eligible for SNAP during the time you are living in the District, unless you are receiving benefits in another state. For example, you would still be considered a District resident and could receive SNAP benefits in the District if you are enrolled in and commuting to school in another state while living in the District.

**For more information, please visit <https://dhs.dc.gov/service/snap-college-students>**