

SNAP BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Information from: <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/families/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap.html>

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, provides nutritional assistance benefits to children and families, the elderly, the disabled, unemployed and working families with the primary goal to alleviate malnutrition and hunger and improve nutrition and health in eligible households. SNAP financially assists low-income families with purchasing healthy food to allow the families to focus their income on essential living expenses.

SNAP benefits are issued and accessed electronically using a Benefit Security Card or EBT Card. To apply for benefits, submit your application online at <https://faonlineapp.dhs.tn.gov/>. Applicants are notified by mail (within 45 days of the application date for Families First and 30 days of the application date for SNAP) of the eligibility decision.

Examples of Required Information/Documents to Apply:

- Social Security Number
- Your Identification (Example: driver's license, school ID with photo, Passport, Resident Alien Card, I-94 card, voter's registration card)
- Where you live (Example: lease agreement, utility bill, phone bill, or driver's license with your address on it)
- Income (Example: check stubs, employer statement, award letters)
- Shelter costs (Example: mortgage payments, property tax, homeowner's insurance, rent receipt, lease agreement)
- Costs of utilities (Example: electric bill, water bill, gas bill)

You may be asked to provide more information during your interview. Your eligibility counselor will explain what information is needed, how to get it and help you if you need assistance.

Examples of Eligibility Requirements:

- **Residency.** Applicants must be living in the State of Tennessee to receive SNAP benefits in the state.
- **Age and Relationship.** There are no specific age limits to receive SNAP benefits. Parents and their children 21 years old or younger living together are considered one household. Minors who apply on their own must be living without their parents. Individuals living together and who purchase and prepare food together are treated as one household.
- **Citizenship and Social Security Numbers.** An applicant must be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. National, or a qualified alien to get SNAP benefits. To be eligible, all SNAP household members must have a social security number or proof of having applied for one.
- **Work.** To receive SNAP benefits, most able-bodied people between 16 and 59 years old must register for work, participate in the Employment & Training Program if offered, accept offers of employment, and cannot quit a job. Able-bodied adults without dependents aged 18 to 49 can receive only a limited number of benefit months in 3 years, unless working 80 hours per month or otherwise determined exempt from the rule.

Other factors, tests, and deductions are also considered. For more detailed information please visit: <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/families/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap-eligibility-information.html>

This is a collaboration between the following offices and will be updated as soon as possible when new or additional information becomes available. Please submit any updates to Kimberly@MakeItInMcMinn.org

