

Q What is being done to help the elderly and/or disabled?

A Many of the provisions in SNAP were designed to benefit the elderly (aged 60 or over) and/or disabled. Examples of these provisions are:

- Eliminating interviews for the South Carolina Combined Application Project (SCCAP) households.
- A four-year certification period for SCCAP Households.
- A three-year certification period for Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) households.
- A two-year certification period for households in which all adults are elderly or disabled, with no earned income.
- Exemption from work registration.
- Entitlement to unlimited excess shelter deduction and to a medical deduction.

Households where all members are elderly with no earned income or purchase food separately if living with others may receive SNAP benefits through the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP).

Individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) who live alone or purchase and prepare meals separately if living with others may receive SNAP benefits through SCCAP.

For more information on ESAP or SCCAP, please call toll-free 1-888-898-0055.

Who do I call for help?

Call toll-free
from anywhere in
South Carolina.
DSS Connect
1-800-616-1309

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT SNAP BENEFITS

Q What is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)?

A SNAP is a supplement program that helps eligible households buy food. SNAP is designed to promote the general welfare and to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's population by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households.

Q What CAN and CANNOT be bought with SNAP benefits?

A SNAP benefits **CAN** be used to buy any food for the household, such as: fruits and vegetables; meat, poultry and fish; dairy products; breads and cereals; snacks and nonalcoholic beverages; and seeds and plants which produce food for the household to eat. SNAP benefits **CANNOT** be used to buy: alcoholic beverages, tobacco or cigarettes, household supplies (including soap and paper products), medicines or vitamins, any other non-food items, hot foods prepared for immediate consumption, or pet food.

Q Who qualifies for SNAP benefits?

A Person(s) who live together and buy and prepare meals together, and who have combined countable income less than the amount set by the federal guidelines for the appropriate household size may qualify for SNAP benefits. Households are allowed certain deductions from their income. In addition to income, other eligibility factors may be verified. **Note:** A person receiving SSI may be

automatically eligible for SNAP benefits.

Q What deductions are allowed?

A The following expense deductions are allowed if the household is under the federal income guidelines:

- Child Support Deduction
- Dependent Care Deduction
- Earned Income Deduction
- Medical Deduction
- Shelter Costs Deduction
- Standard Deduction

Q What amount of resources are counted in SNAP?

A If the household is considered categorically eligible, resources will not count. If the household is not categorically eligible, the total value of combined countable resources cannot be over \$2,250; or if at least one household member is aged 60 or older, the limit is \$3,500.

Q Does everyone have to register for work?

A In general, all unemployed household members between 16 and 59 years of age must comply with work registration, unless they meet an exemption from SNAP work requirements.

Q What are the responsibilities of SNAP recipients?

A Households must report the following changes when:

1. The households total monthly gross income exceeds 130% of poverty. Gross income means all of the money the household receives including wages (before taxes or other deductions), social security, SSI, cash contributions, unemployment compensation, child support, worker's compensation, etc.
2. An ABAWD's work hours fall below 20 hours weekly, averaged 80 hours monthly.
3. A member of the household wins lottery or gambling winnings equal to or greater than \$3,500 from a single game before taxes or other withholdings.

Changes must be reported by the tenth day of the month following the month in which the change(s) occurred.

Note: Recipients must not knowingly misuse, transfer or sell their SNAP benefits, or acquire or use them in an unlawful manner.