

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

**A** Many of the provisions in SNAP were designed to benefit the elderly and disabled. Examples of these provisions are:

- Eliminating interviews for certain elderly households.
- Authorizing someone else to turn in their application for SNAP benefits, be interviewed, pick up their EBT card and shop for them.
- A two-year certification period.
- Allowing the purchase of meals in a communal dining facility, from a meal delivery service or FNS-authorized restaurants with their SNAP benefits.
- Exemption from work registration.
- Entitlement to unlimited shelter deduction and to a medical deduction for expenses.

Households where all members are elderly or where all elderly members purchase and prepare food separately from the other household members and no member receives earnings from work may receive SNAP benefits through the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP). For information on ESAP, call toll-free 1-888-898-0055.

Individuals receiving SSI who live alone or purchase and prepare food separately from other household members and have no earned income may receive SNAP benefits through the South Carolina Combined Application Project (SCCAP). For information on SCCAP, call toll-free 1-888-898-0055.

## Who do I call for help?

Call toll-free  
from anywhere  
in South Carolina.  
SNAP Hotline  
1-800-616-1309

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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What is the Supplemental  
Nutrition Assistance  
Program (SNAP)?

# QUESTIONS

What Can Be Bought With SNAP Benefits?

## AND

Who Qualifies for SNAP?

## ANSWERS

What Deductions Are Allowed?

## ABOUT

What Resources Are Counted?

## SNAP

What is Being Done to Help the Elderly  
and Disabled?

## BENEFITS

What Are the Responsibilities  
of SNAP Recipients?

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

**A** The purpose of the SNAP is to promote the general welfare and to safeguard the health and well-being of low-income households by raising their level of nutrition. People who qualify will receive a plastic card which they can use at stores to access their SNAP benefits.

**Q** **What can be bought with SNAP benefits?**

**A** SNAP benefits can be used to buy almost any food, or seeds or plants to grow food for that household's own use. 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 item, 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 food together, and who have combined countable incomes less than the amount set by the federal government for a household size in the Thrifty Food Plan may qualify for SNAP benefits. Households are allowed certain deductions from their income. In addition to income, other eligibility factors may include resources available and participation in work programs.  
**Note:** A person receiving SSI may be

automatically eligible for SNAP benefits.

**Q** **What deductions are allowed?**

**A** The following deductions are allowed if you are under the federal government income guidelines:

- a) Standard deduction. The standard deduction may be adjusted once a year to reflect changes in the cost of living.
- b) Earned income deduction. Working household members will be given a 20 percent deduction from their gross earned income. This is to allow for taxes and other mandatory deductions, such as Social Security.
- c) Dependent care deduction. Households may receive a deduction for the cost of child or incapacitated adult care when necessary to enable a household member to work, seek a job, or pursue training or education in preparation for a job.
- d) Excess shelter costs. Households may be given a deduction for monthly shelter costs, which include rent, mortgage payments, interest, property taxes, insurance and utility costs.

**Q** **What amount of resources are counted in the SNAP?**

**A** If your household is considered categorically eligible, your resources will not count. If you are not categorically eligible, the total value of

combined countable resources cannot be over \$2,000 or, if at least one household member is aged 60 or older, the limit is \$3,000. Examples of countable resources include bank accounts, stocks and bonds, property you own that is not where you live, and some vehicles.

**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 requirements unless they meet certain exceptions.

**Q** **What are the responsibilities of SNAP recipients?**

**A** Households are not required to report changes unless the household's gross income exceeds the gross income limit for your household size (130% of poverty). This change must be reported by the tenth day of the month following the month in which the change occurred. Failure to do so may cause the household to be dropped from the program. Recipients must not knowingly misuse, transfer or sell their SNAP benefits, or acquire or use them in an unlawful manner, or they will risk a fine or jail.