

SNAP GUIDE FOR SENIORS

Someone in the household is 60 years+ or disabled:

- Net income* test determines eligibility
- No cap on shelter expenses (for purpose of calculating net income)
- Medical expense deductions allowed

Someone in the household is 65 years+ or disabled AND only receives unearned income:

- Certified through the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)
- Recertify every 36 months, no interview required
- Data is shared with Social Security Administration for verification documents

Once someone turns 65 years old, they are no longer subject to SNAP work requirements.

SENIOR SNAP ELIGIBILITY

SNAP eligibility is based on a household's size and income. **If a member of a household is age 60+ or disabled, there are special rules to help that household access SNAP.**

* Net income is the money you have left over after you pay for vital expenses: housing, medical bills, utilities, etc. While gross income is not used to determine eligibility for households with someone age 60+ or disabled, gross income will be collected to calculate net income.

These households may deduct the full monthly cost of their shelter and certain out-of-pocket medical expenses when calculating the household's net income.

MEDICAL DEDUCTIONS FOR SENIORS

Seniors may deduct their out-of-pocket medical expenses from their gross income. This deduction may qualify them for increased SNAP benefits. Seniors can tell the Department of Human Services about their medical expenses when they first apply or update them later.

Examples of medical expenses include:

- Health insurance premiums
- Medical and dental care
- Prescription and over the counter medications
- Home health aides and visiting nurses
- The cost of transportation to medical care

SNAP FOR GRANDPARENTS

Grandparents may apply for SNAP benefits for their grandchildren even without official custody. Being on SNAP provides income eligibility for WIC, so grandparents raising small children can also apply for WIC on behalf of the child in their care. To learn more about WIC, visit <https://www.tn.gov/health/wic.html>.

ELDERLY SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PROJECT (ESAP)

Households where every member is age 65+ or disabled and no earned income from work qualify for a simplified application process known as the **Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)**. ESAP households only have to recertify once every 36 months instead of once every 12 months, and the recertification interview is waived, making the program more accessible.

If someone in the household is still working, the household will NOT qualify for ESAP.

HAVING TROUBLE WITH YOUR CASE?

CONTACT TJC!

(615) 255 - 0331

tnjustice.org/freehelp

