

SNAP FOR PEOPLE EXITING PRISON IN TN

Many people exiting prison are eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. SNAP provides money for eligible people to help buy groceries.



APPLY BEFORE RELEASE

Individuals leaving prison can apply for SNAP **up to 30 days** before release! This can ensure that benefits are available quickly upon return to the community, helping people get back on their feet faster.



GET HELP WITH THE PROCESS

The SNAP application process includes a phone interview. The interview allows DHS to ask questions about income, living situation, and other information with the applicant. This can be difficult for those transitioning back to society and lack of access to a phone or the availability to answer the call can cause delays in the process for people who are incarcerated.

An applicant can designate an **Authorized Representative (AR)**, which is someone who can help with the application process, conduct the interview on their behalf, and legally interact with DHS about their case. This allows the AR to make sure the case moves forward when the applicant cannot be available. This can speed up the approval process and help avoid delays in getting benefits.



EXPEDITED BENEFITS

People with less than \$150 household monthly income and less than \$100 in money on hand could be eligible for **expedited SNAP benefits**, meaning their application must be approved and have a SNAP EBT card within **7 days** of applying.



KNOW YOUR ELIGIBILITY

Class A drug-related felony: TN law permanently bans anyone with this felony from receiving SNAP.

Class B, C, D, or E drug-related felony: not automatically disqualified but must provide additional documentation (such as proof of a drug treatment program or a doctor's letter).

No other charges prevent one from receiving SNAP in Tennessee. Convictions from other states will apply to these rules.



WHERE TO SEND EBT CARD

SNAP EBT cards can be mailed to **any secure address**— this can include your AR, a shelter, a family member's home, or even to the prison before release so it's ready upon the person's release date.



WORK REQUIREMENTS

Some people must meet work requirements to keep their SNAP benefits. However, there are some exceptions for people in job training, veterans, unhoused people, people aging out of foster care up to 24, people over the age of 64, and more. If you're unsure about your status, ASK! You may be exempt!