

SNAP College Student Guide



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),

formerly known as Food Stamps, helps individuals and families put food on the table. SNAP is the nation's most effective program, keeping 8 million Americans out of poverty, including 4 million children. Over 900,000 Tennesseans rely on SNAP to escape hunger.

Eligibility for SNAP

Eligibility for SNAP is based on your income and resources. Your household must have less than \$2,250 in resources, such as savings. Your household income must be below the income limits listed below. Households that include someone over age 59 or receive disability benefits may qualify even if they have more resources or income.

| Household Size | Monthly Income |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$1,354 |
| 2 | \$1,832 |
| 3 | \$2,211 |
| 4 | \$2,790 |

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College students may be eligible for SNAP based on one of the following:

- Participate in a work-study program
- Work 80 hours per month
- Care for a child under age 6
- Single parent caring for a child under 12 & enrolled full-time
- Be under age 18 OR over age 49
- Have a documented physical or mental disability;
- Receive a Families First (TANF) or Social Security benefits
- Attend school as part of an employment readiness program

How much can I get?

The SNAP benefit amount depends on your income, expenses, and the number of people in your household. In Tennessee, the maximum monthly benefit amount for an individual is \$192. The average monthly benefit amount is \$126. Benefits are loaded onto an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card every month.

How does an EBT card work?

The EBT card works like a debit card and is accepted at nearly all grocery stores and supermarkets. It can be used to buy food to prepare at home. You can buy vegetable seeds and plants you can eat.

Many farmers markets now accept SNAP. Some markets offer "bonus bucks" to spend on fresh produce if you use your EBT card. Check with your local market about this opportunity.

Apply for SNAP

Apply online: <https://faonlineapp.dhs.tn.gov>

Apply by fax or mail to the Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS) county office. Find your county office:

shorturl.at/eGQU5

Call DHS for more information: 1-866-311-4287

What happens when I apply?

Applying is free and confidential.

The online SNAP application takes about 30 minutes.

Applications must be filed in the DHS Office in the county of the applicant's residence. Apply in the county where you go to school.

If you have roommates who are also eligible for SNAP you may be able to apply together as a household.

Be prepared to report income (wages, money from parents), expenses (rent, utilities, childcare costs), and resources (bank account info). Supporting documentation is necessary (examples include pay stubs, lease, etc.).

An interview with a DHS caseworker is scheduled after your paperwork is submitted.

DHS has 30 days to process your application.

Call Tennessee Justice Center at 877-608-1009 if you have problems with your application.