

■ **Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled**

The Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled program provides home- and community-based services to assist individuals in maintaining their independence in their own home or community for as long as is safely possible. More details about services available under this program are found on page 78.

■ **Older Americans Act programs**

The Older Americans Act provides community-based services and opportunities for older individuals and their families. Older Americans Act programs generally only require that recipients be over the age of 60. More details about services available under this program are found on page 97.

■ **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, previously known as “food stamps,” provides food assistance to low-income individuals. It is a federal aid program administered by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; however, benefits are distributed at the state level. SNAP helps low-income individuals and families buy the food they need for good health. Interested parties apply for benefits by completing a state application form online, in-person or via mail. Benefits are provided on an electronic card that is used like a debit card and accepted at most grocery stores.

How does someone qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program?

To qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, applicants must meet certain nonfinancial and financial requirements. Nonfinancial criteria include state residency and citizenship status. Financial criteria include income and asset limits.

What are the income limits?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program has two income limits, gross income and net income. Gross income is total income before taxes or deductions. Net income is determined by subtracting certain allowable deductions from the gross income. For specific dollar figures, see the chart of monthly income limits and maximum monthly allotments on page 52.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program monthly income limits and maximum allotment

Assistance Group Size	Gross Monthly Income Limit	Net Monthly Income Limit	Maximum SNAP Allotment
1	\$1,383	\$1,064	\$204
2	1,868	1,437	374
3	2,353	1,810	535
4	2,839	2,184	680
5	3,324	2,557	807
6	3,809	2,930	969
7	4,295	3,304	1,071
8	4,780	3,677	1,224
Each Additional Member	+486	+374	+153

*The information in this guide is correct as of April 1, 2021.
For the most up-to-date information, refer to www.fssa.in.gov.*

What are the asset/resource limits?


The asset/resource limits are \$5,000 per household for most households. Assets include bank accounts, cash, real estate, personal property, vehicles, etc. The household’s home and surrounding lot, household goods, personal belongings and life insurance policies are not counted as assets in determining SNAP eligibility.

What can a participant buy with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits?

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits can be used like cash to buy food items at any store, supermarket or co-op approved by the USDA. Items that can be purchased with SNAP are determined by the USDA, not the state of Indiana. SNAP can be used to purchase any foods meant for human consumption, as well as seeds and plants that produce food.

Will Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits provide all of an applicant’s household’s food needs?

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits are not intended to purchase all of a household’s meals for the month. The assistance group’s budget is compared against the Thrifty Food Plan to determine the final benefit amount. Assistance groups do not necessarily qualify for the maxi-



mum SNAP benefit for their group size. Benefits are intended to supplement the household's other income to help purchase healthy meals during the month. Eligible households are issued SNAP monthly based on the Thrifty Food Plan, which is a model diet plan established by the National Academy of Sciences and supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

How does someone apply for or manage their current SNAP benefits?

- Applicants can apply online at **www.fssabenefits.in.gov**.
- Applicants can call or fax **800-403-0864**.
- Applicants can visit a local Division of Family Resources office or find a local DFR office at **DFRBenefits.in.gov**.

How long does it take to get benefits?

The Division of Family Resources office has 30 days to make a decision on an applicant's case. However, if the person meets certain criteria, he or she may be determined to be eligible for expedited service, which means a decision will be made on the application within seven days of applying.

Can a recipient get expedited Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits today?

When an application is turned in, it is reviewed for expedited service. It is important for applicants to complete the expedited questions on the application so that they can be considered for this service.

To qualify for expedited benefits an applicant must:

- Have less than \$150 in gross monthly income and liquid resources (cash/checking/savings) of \$100 or less in the month of the application.
- Have monthly rent/mortgage and utilities that cost more than the applicant's gross monthly income and liquid resources.

If applicants qualify for expedited benefits, they will receive them by the seventh day after applying. Benefits are NEVER received the same day as the application.

What does an applicant have to provide when he or she applies?

Applicants will be asked to provide their name, address and signature. At the interview, the dates of birth and Social Security numbers for all persons living in their household must be provided. In addition, they will need to verify the income received by each household member. There may also be other information requested depending on each household's specific situation.



What happens at the interview appointment?

The worker will ask questions about the persons living in the home, income, resources and other information needed to determine eligibility. Applicants will be given or mailed a form listing all needed information with a deadline date. They must get the information to the local office or document center before the deadline date. They will be mailed a notice regarding eligibility after the case has been processed and eligibility has been determined. The notice lists appeal rights should the applicant disagree with the decision.

Can someone receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits if he or she is getting unemployment?

Yes. Individuals who receive unemployment benefits may still qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

Can someone receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits if he or she gets Supplemental Security Income, disability related Medicaid or other disability or insurance benefits?

Yes, if the applicant's income is within the established guidelines. Applicants must pass a net income test to qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

Can applicants get Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits if they have a felony drug conviction?

As of Jan. 1, 2020, individuals who have been convicted of a drug felony may be eligible for SNAP if they meet certain conditions. Individuals who are compliant with post-conviction supervision (such as probation or parole) or who are no longer subject to supervision and are not in violation of supervision may be eligible for SNAP if all other eligibility factors are met.

How does someone spend Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits?

Once it is determined that applicants are eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, a "Hoosier Works" card is sent to the mailing address provided. Applicants should normally receive the card within three to five days. If an applicant has previously received SNAP benefits under his or her name, he or she will not be mailed a new Hoosier Works card. The benefits will be put on the old card. If the old card is lost or damaged, applicants will need to call **877-768-5098** to obtain a new card. The card is utilized like a debit card.