



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)



What is SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's largest program for fighting domestic hunger. Federally funded and state administered, SNAP helps low-income individuals and families by providing monthly benefits to buy food. SNAP is based on income, resources, and the number of individuals in a household. Benefits are put in an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. The EBT card used can be used, like a debit card, to specifically buy food at participating retailers including grocery stores, farmers markets, and convenience stores.

You may qualify for SNAP if...

You are an individual, couple, family, older adult, person with a disability in Rhode Island and have low-income (less than **185%**, or 200% if someone is age 60 or older or disabled, of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Current income guidelines can be found at www.dhs.ri.gov.

Eligible SNAP customers receive monthly benefits on an EBT card at the beginning of each month to buy food at supermarkets, grocery stores, farmers markets, and convenience stores. Additionally, SNAP customers can participate in free employment and training programs through SNAP E&T. The questions on the back of this page may help you decide whether you should apply.

How to apply?

Customers interested in applying for SNAP can do so online through the Customer Portal (<https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/>) or by completing a DHS-2 or ESAP Application for Assistance (for households with all elderly/disabled members and no employment income) or and putting it in any of our secure drop boxes at all [DHS offices and regional family centers](#). Applications can also be mailed to the following address: RI Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 8709, Cranston, RI 02920-8787. If you prefer to speak to someone, you can call **1-855-697-4347** weekdays, except holidays and Wednesdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

When can I expect a decision?

Decisions are made within 30 days after you submit an application. In some cases, applicants may have their application expedited and they will receive a decision within 7 days.

Applications are expedited if...

- Your monthly income before taxes is less than **\$150** and you have less than **\$100** in cash/accounts
- Your household's combined monthly income before taxes and cash/accounts is less than your household's combined monthly rent/mortgage and utilities
- Or you are a migrant or seasonal farmworker with no current income and you have **\$100** or less in cash/accounts

What happens after my application is submitted?

You must have an interview for DHS to determine eligibility. Once your application has been received by DHS, you will receive a call from a DHS staff member to conduct an over-the-phone interview. If the DHS staff member can't reach you, they will schedule an appointment and send you a notice in the mail with the date and time of the interview.

What is your Income?

- Who do you live with that you purchase and prepare your food with? Include your partner or spouse. Do you purchase and prepare with a roommate or do you each buy your own food?)

How many people are in your household? _____

- Are any of the people in your household age 60 or older or disabled (receiving SSI, SSDI, VA disability benefits)? No, go to question #3. Yes, go to question #4.

3. Is your household income, before taxes, less than the amount in the chart below (include both earned and unearned income)?

Number of people in household (no one is elderly or disabled)	Monthly income	Number of people in household	Monthly income
1	\$2,322	4	\$4,810
2	\$3,152	5	\$5,641
3	\$3,981	6	\$6,489
For larger households, you can find income information online at dhs.ri.gov .			

4. Is your household income, before taxes, less than the amount in the chart below (include both earned and unearned income)?

Number of people in household (Someone is elderly or disabled)	Monthly income	Number of people in household	Monthly income
1	\$2,510	4	\$5,200
2	\$3,408	5	\$6,098
3	\$4,304	6	\$6,994
For larger households, you can find income information here.			

Other eligibility facts

- Most SNAP applicants need to meet two income tests, sometimes people are ineligible even if their income is below the amount in the chart.
- If your income is above the amount in the chart but you pay child support, you may still be eligible for SNAP.
- If you are over 60 years of age or disabled and your income is above the amount in the chart, you may still be eligible if you have high housing or medical expenses.
- Non-citizens may be eligible for SNAP if they are asylees, refugees, or legal permanent residents. Eligible members of mixed status households can receive SNAP.
- Some SNAP recipients may have a work requirement, you can learn more about that once you are approved for benefits.
- Applicants will need to provide identification, verification of RI residence and income.

If determined ineligible

The applicant has the right to appeal the decision by requesting a fair hearing. The appeal instructions and required forms are available on the DHS website [Appeals Process](#) page.

Have More Questions?

Visit our website: www.dhs.ri.gov

Call: 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347) Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, except holidays, from 8:30AM-3:00PM

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Customer Service: 1-888-979-9939

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