

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The SNAP benefit is for food assistance, helping families cover food expenses at most grocery stores. Families can use their SNAP benefit card (EBT card) to pay for certain foods, but it does not cover every food item, and does not cover toiletries, diapers, etc. Only one application is needed per household unless multiple families are living under one roof.

### Overview

- Helps eligible low-income Ohioans stretch their food budgets and buy healthy food.
- Gross family income must be at or below 130% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG).
  - If your family is above this limit, you may qualify if an individual in their household is elderly or disabled.
- Standard amount of time to receive benefit is 12 months (though this varies), and there is a need to recertify at specified time.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Gross family income must be at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG).
  - For example, this means that for a family of four, gross monthly income cannot exceed \$2,871.
  - Gross monthly income means monthly income before taxes or deductions are taken out.
- The standard length of time to receive SNAP benefits is one year.
- On the SNAP application acceptance letter there will be a note about when your family needs to re-apply for the benefit.
- You need to apply to receive this benefit, but if your family is already eligible/receiving Ohio Works First (OWF), Social Security Income (SSI), Disability Financial Assistance (DFA), Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC), or any other TANF funded service, you are considered "categorically eligible" for SNAP benefits because you have already been determined eligible for one of the mentioned programs.
- There are differing eligibility requirements/lengths of time SNAP can be received for individuals who are not parents or caretakers and are also not currently working.

### Documentation Needed

- Social Security Number or proof of applying for one.
- Income from pay stubs, tax records or child support notices, etc.
- Identity, for example, driver's license or state ID.
- Housing and utility cost documents.

- Any child care or dependent care costs.
- Any child support you pay for children not living with you.
- Any medical expenses, including prescriptions, for those with disabilities or for those over age 60.
- Your county agency may verify information provided by contacting other agencies or people, and may ask to provide other documents.

## **Ways to Apply**

- [Benefits.Ohio.Gov](https://benefits.ohio.gov)
- "Request for Cash, Food and Medical Assistance" and submitting to local JFS.
- Phone 1-866-635-3748 ext. 4 follow prompts for food assistance.

## **References**

- Ohio Laws and Administrative Rules. (2018, September 1). Food assistance: initial application process. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5101:4-2-01>
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. (2021, July). Ohio resource guide for relatives caring for children. <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS08146/pdf/>