

# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



## SNAP Program Highlights

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), originally known as Food Stamps, provides low-income households with electronic benefits that are used like cash at most grocery stores.

SNAP benefits are funded by the federal government and rules governing the program are set by the US Department of Agriculture. States have primary responsibility for day-to-day administration of the program. The federal government and the states share the administrative costs.



- In Georgia, SNAP is administered by the Georgia Department of Human Resources' Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS).
- SNAP is an "entitlement" program, open to anyone meeting the eligibility criteria.
- Currently 38.2 million people are receiving SNAP benefits (1 in every 10 Americans), including 1.5 million in Georgia.
- The program serves approximately 72% of all eligible individuals.

## ELIGIBILITY

Participants must be U.S. citizens. Children born in the U.S. to non-citizen parents are eligible for benefits, however the non-citizen parents are not.

Adult participants must engage in "work

| Number of Household Members | Maximum Gross Income (130% FPL) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1                           | \$ 1,307                        |
| 2                           | \$ 1,760                        |
| 3                           | \$ 2,213                        |
| 4                           | \$ 2,665                        |
| 5                           | \$ 3,118                        |
| 6                           | \$ 3,571                        |

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Anyone may apply online at [compass.ga.gov](https://compass.ga.gov) or in person at the nearest office of the Georgia Department of Family & Children's Services (DFCS).
- A list of all DFCS offices can be found at: <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/locations>.
- Clients must complete an application form.
- The Head-of-Household is interviewed by a DFCS staff person at the DFCS office or by phone. Applicants must provide DFCS with necessary income, residency, and other relevant documents.
- The application must be processed within 30 days. There is an appeal process for denied applications.
- Clients may also receive assistance with their applications from the SVDP Conference Support Center, as part of the "Earned Benefits" initiative.
- Caseworkers can fax client household info to the Center, where staff will manage the application process.

## WHEN BENEFITS ARE APPROVED

- Benefits will be granted for a period of 3 to 12 months, at which time participants must re-certify.
- Participants receive an EBT card (Electronic Benefit Transfer) which can be used like a debit card in stores.
- Households can use their EBT card to purchase food. Households **cannot** use their EBT card to purchase beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes or tobacco, pet foods, soaps, paper products, household supplies, vitamins, hot food, or food that is consumed in the store.

## BENEFITS

The SNAP benefits formula targets benefits according to need, with the very needy getting higher benefits. The average benefit is \$151 monthly per person. Maximum benefits are:

| Number of Household Members | Maximum Monthly Benefit |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1                           | \$ 192                  |
| 2                           | \$ 352                  |
| 3                           | \$ 504                  |
| 4                           | \$ 640                  |
| 5                           | \$ 760                  |
| 6                           | \$ 913                  |

