Report All Changes Affecting Your Eligibility

All SNAP recipients must report anytime their monthly gross income is over the maximum allowed for their household size. Income maximums can be found on notices, by calling your Benefits Specialist or online at dss.sd.gov/snap.

The income must be reported by the 10th day of the month, following the month the income exceeds the maximum.

All SNAP recipients are also required to complete a renewal process once every 12 months. Most SNAP recipients will fill out a report form in the 6th month of their renewal period. Renewal and report forms will be mailed to recipients and are also available online at dss.sd.gov/onlineapplication

Recipients are not required to report any other changes, but they may choose to report changes such as:

- The addition of a household member and their income
- Increase in expenses, such as shelter costs, daycare costs, etc.
- Income stops or decreases

You Have Certain Rights

Anyone may apply for SNAP benefits. Applicants and recipients have the right to file an application on the same day they contact their local Department of Social Services office. They may request help completing an application and have the right to be interviewed in private with household circumstances kept confidential.

Those applicants who qualify as having an immediate need have the right to get SNAP benefits within a few days of their application. Applicants and recipients have the right to receive notice of any change in their benefits or certification period. Applicants may request a fair hearing if they feel the Department has made a mistake in their case. They are entitled to be notified of the decision of the hearing and that they have the right to appeal it.

Welfare Fraud is a Crime

SNAP benefits cannot be used to buy non-food items such as alcohol, tobacco, household supplies, medicines, ready-to-eat food or pet food. It is important that benefits are used to purchase nutritious food. Recipients cannot and should not sell or trade SNAP benefits, the South Dakota EBT card, or food purchased with the South Dakota EBT card. It is against the law. If benefits and/or food purchased with the benefits are sold or traded, it will be investigated, and if found guilty, a 12 month, 24 month, or permanent disqualification from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will be implemented and the amount of any misused food benefits will be required to be repaid. Individuals may also be referred for criminal prosecution which could also result in a fine and/or prison time.

For More Information:

Please use the contact information below to find out more about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in South Dakota.

Phone:
605-773-3493 or 1-877-999-5612

Fax:
605-773-7183

Email:
snap@state.sd.us

Web:
www.dss.sd.gov/snap

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SNAP

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

DSS
Strong Families - South Dakota's Foundation and Our Future

SNAP Benefits

The Department of Social Services' Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) helps low-income South Dakotans buy the food they need to stay healthy while they work to regain financial independence. SNAP benefits are provided to supplement the household's food budget. The amount of SNAP benefits a household receives is based on its size, income, and allowable expenses.

Applying for Benefits

To receive SNAP benefits, apply at your local Department of Social Services office, by mail, or online at dss.sd.gov/onlineapplication. If this is not possible, an authorized representative may apply for you. The applicant is responsible for any over-issuance resulting from false information. Household circumstances discussed during the interview are confidential.

If no adult can come to the office or send a representative, a telephone interview or home visit may be arranged.

Applicants must provide proof of:

- identity
- residency
- income

Applicants may provide proof of:

- rent or mortgage amounts
- utility amounts
- dependent care costs
- legally obligated child support amounts paid out
- medical expenses for individuals age 60 or older or with disabilities

Benefit amounts may be higher if applicants provide the optional information above. Applicants for both SSI and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance may apply for both programs in a single interview at their local Social Security offices if all persons in the household have needs covered by SSI.

Certified applicants may receive SNAP benefits within 30 days of their application. Some adults without dependents can only receive benefits for 3 months out of a 36-month period, unless they are employed or performing work in exchange for assistance.

Eligibility is Based On Income, Age and Disability

Eligibility for SNAP benefits is usually based on gross and net income or, for households with at least one elderly or disabled member, just net income.

The amount of benefits received is determined by household size and adjusted gross income after these exemptions:

- a standard deduction
- a 20 percent earned income deduction
- a deduction for dependent care
- a limited deduction for excess shelter care expenses
- a deduction for child support paid out
- medical expenses for individuals age 60 or older, or individuals with disabilities

Gross income limits are established by the federal government and adjusted annually. Current gross income limits are available from Benefit Specialists at your local office or online at dss.sd.gov/snap.

A household may have liquid resources (cash or assets easily converted to cash) of up to $2,000. In a household where one or more individuals are disabled, or age 60 or older, the resource limit is $3,250.

One car per household is excluded. Other vehicle values may be added as an asset.

Able-bodied Applicants Must Seek Employment

Able-bodied applicants must register for work and cooperate in seeking and keeping employment. In certain counties, applicants are required to participate in an Employment and Training Program (E & T).

However, you may be exempt from this requirement if you are:

- responsible for care in the home of a disabled person or child under age six
- pregnant (in fourth month or later)
- a household member participating in the TANF work program
- a VISTA volunteer
- employed or self-employed, and meeting certain requirements
- a student enrolled at least half-time in any recognized school or higher learning

SNAP Benefits Card

SNAP recipients receive their benefits in an electronic account. Recipients are given a plastic debit card, similar to a credit card, allowing them to use their electronic benefits to purchase food items at authorized stores. SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) is much faster and helps prevent loss and/or theft of benefits.

The South Dakota EBT card will last for years. The same EBT card can be used every month as long as there are benefits on the card. It is important to keep the EBT card in a safe and secure location. If the card is not kept safe, a replacement card will need to be requested so that benefits can be used. In order to keep program costs down, and ensure that SNAP rules are being followed correctly, multiple replacement cards are monitored. If multiple replacement cards are requested, an additional interview and/or an investigation of card usage may occur to ensure that card usage and/or food purchases follow the law.