

What is SNAP?

SNAP is a federal program that helps people with low income to buy the food they need for good nutrition. SNAP benefits are provided monthly on an electronic debit card that can be used to buy food at most grocery stores.

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Family Resources (DFR) administers the SNAP program in Indiana.

How can SNAP help me?

SNAP provides supplemental nutrition for working families, seniors and other Hoosiers who qualify for this assistance.

- SNAP benefits allow you to spend less of your own money on food, freeing up more of your money for other critical living expenses.
- Your SNAP benefit card can be used to buy food at most major retailers, select convenience stores and even some farmers' markets.
- If used wisely, SNAP can help you improve the nutritional content of your meals.

SNAP employment and training program

Our Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT) program offers SNAP recipients free services to build job skills and find employment. If you need help finding a job, need to meet the work requirement or are currently working and want to increase your skills, IMPACT may be able to help you.

How do I apply for SNAP?

You can visit our website at [SNAP.IN.gov](https://www.snap.in.gov) to apply online. You can also call **1-800-403-0864** to request an application be sent to you, or visit a local DFR office to apply in person. DFR local office locations are available at [SNAP.IN.gov](https://www.snap.in.gov) or by calling 1-800-403-0864.

How much will my SNAP benefits be each month?

The amount of benefits your household receives each month depends on the number of people in your household and your monthly net income. It is based on a table determined by the federal government since SNAP is governed by the federal government but administered by state government.

What are the income limits?

For SNAP, there are two income limits considered for eligibility: **Gross and net.** *Gross income* is your total income, before taxes or any other deductions. Some deductions are allowed, like housing costs, child support payments, child care or dependent care payments, and monthly medical expenses over \$35 for people who are at least 60 years old or who have disabilities. The amount left over after these deductions is called *net income*.

Most households have to meet both gross and net income limits. If everyone living in your household receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), you do not need to meet any income limits.

What are the resource (asset) limits?

Cash, checking and saving accounts are examples of resources. The home you live in is not counted as a resource. Vehicles could count as a resource depending on their use. Go online to [SNAP.IN.gov](https://www.snap.in.gov) under SNAP frequently asked questions to see the current resource limits. If everyone living in your household receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), resources are not countable for SNAP.

Who can qualify for SNAP and are there exceptions?

SNAP eligibility is based on the size of your household, your monthly income and resources being under certain limits. Go online to [SNAP.IN.gov](https://www.snap.in.gov) to see the current household monthly income limits or to use a screening tool to see if you might qualify for benefits.

Individuals in your household may not be eligible for SNAP benefits because:

- They are boarders or they live in institutions
- They are non-citizens of the United States
- They have intentionally broken program rules
- They do not comply with Social Security number requirements
- They choose to work fewer than 30 hours per week without good cause
- They were working at least 20 hours per week and quit without good cause
- They are violating probation or parole, are criminal fugitives or have been convicted of drug felony crimes
- They are ineligible for failing to meet SNAP work requirements

Important warnings

- Information you provide about your assistance group(s) is subject to verification and investigation by federal, state and local authorities.
- A person who receives assistance by giving false information, by failing to report information, or who uses SNAP benefits to purchase illegal drugs, firearms, ammunition or explosives may be criminally prosecuted under state and federal law.
- It is a crime to give away, sell or trade SNAP benefits.
- Federal regulations require DFR to recover all SNAP benefits issued in error, regardless of who caused the error.



Will SNAP benefits provide for all of my household's food needs?

No. SNAP benefits are not intended to purchase all of a household's meals for the month. Benefits are intended to supplement the household's other income to help purchase healthy meals during the month. Eligible households are issued benefits monthly based on the Thrifty Food Plan, which is a model diet plan established by the National Academy of Sciences. Households that have no countable income receive the maximum allotment for the number of persons in the assistance group.

When will I get my benefits?

For most people who are eligible, benefits are received within 30 days of applying. This allows for case processing and notification. In limited circumstances, some households may receive benefits within seven days. This exception is made only for people who, during the month they apply:

- Are not already certified to receive benefits
- Will have a gross monthly income of less than \$150 and no more than \$100 in resources such as cash and checking or savings
- Have monthly housing costs that exceed their gross monthly income and cash and checking or savings accounts

Where can I use my SNAP benefits?

You can use your SNAP benefits like cash to buy food items at any store, supermarket or co-op approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). SNAP benefits in Indiana are provided on a card called Hoosier Works that you use similar to a bank debit card. At the checkout, you enter your Personal Identification Number (PIN). The amount you spend is deducted from the balance of your SNAP benefit account.

Formerly known as the Indiana Food Stamp Program, SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- 2) fax: (202) 690-7442 or
- 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

