

SNAP/Basic Food Program Eligibility



What does SNAP provide?

Basic Food helps low-income people make ends meet by providing monthly benefits to buy food.

Benefits can be used to buy:

- ✓ Breads and cereals
- ✓ Fruits and vegetables
- ✓ Cheese, milk and other dairy
- ✓ Meats, fish, poultry and eggs
- ✓ Most other food items that are not prepared hot foods
- ✓ **Seeds and plants that produce food**



Eligibility Factors



Number of people in household



Gross monthly income of applicants



Citizenship and residency status
of applicants



Student status of applicants



Household Composition

| YES Part of applicant's household | NO Not part of applicant's household |
|--|---|
| All people in the household who buy food or prepare meals together | Housemates who do not share food |
| Applicant's spouse | Unborn child(ren) |
| Applicant's child(ren) under age 22 living at the residence (even if the child is married) | Military personnel who are deployed |
| Applicant's parents living in the residence if applicant is under age 22 | -- |



***A Basic Food household may also be referred to as an assistance unit**



Income

What counts?

All income counts toward Basic Food eligibility

Some examples include:

- Gross Income from a job (including tips, commissions, & bonuses)
- Self-employment **net** income
- Social Security
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
- Labor & Industries income (L&I)
- VA Benefits
- Unemployment Benefits
- Rental income
- Child Support/Alimony



Income Guidelines

| 2019 Basic Food Income Guidelines | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Household Size | 200% FPL Max Income |
| 1 | \$2,082 |
| 2 | \$2,818 |
| 3 | \$3,555 |
| 4 | \$4,292 |
| 5 | \$5,028 |

These amounts are representative of a household's **gross monthly income**. **Gross income** is the amount of money earned or received before anything is taken out for taxes or deductions.



Citizenship and Residency

| YES Eligible | NO Not Eligible |
|--|---|
| US Citizen or US National | Undocumented individuals |
| Lawful Permanent resident | Non-qualified immigrants (Visas, tourists, exchange students) |
| Cuban or Haitian entrants | - |
| Asylees | - |
| Refugee (Hmong or Highland Lao, special immigrant from Iraq or Afghanistan, etc.) | - |
| Victim of trafficking | - |



Mixed Immigration Households

- Households including both US Citizen and/or Lawfully Present Resident and members that do not meet the citizenship and residency requirements, are often referred to as mixed immigration households.
- One or more members of the household must meet the immigration status requirements in order for that Assistance Unit to be considered for benefits.
 - Only those that meet eligibility requirements will be receiving benefits
- Members that do not meet immigration requirement and share/buy/prepare food with those applying, will be on the application, but will not be applying for benefits.
 - Their income will be counted



Student Status

- Age 18 – 49
- Physically and mentally able to work
- Enrolled in an institution of higher education at least half-time as defined by the institution

As a general rule, students who are enrolled in an institution of higher education at least half-time as defined by the institution are not eligible for Basic Food UNLESS they have met a student status exemption.



Student Status: Special Conditions



Students may qualify to receive Basic Food benefits if they meet one of the exemptions, including, but not limited to:

- Be self-employed and working 20 hours/week
- Work for an employer for an average of 20 hours/week
- Be participating in a state or federal work study program at the time of the application (no minimum hours required)
- Be responsible for more than half the care of a dependent person in the household who is 5 years or younger
- Be a single parent responsible for the care of your natural, step, or adopted child who is 11 years or younger
- Participate in the WorkFirst program
- Receive TANF or SFA benefits



Note: an unpaid internship working 20+ hours/ week would not meet the working student requirements in itself.



Added Benefits with Basic Food

- **WIC**
- **Lifeline - Free Cell Phone Program**
- **Farmers' Markets EBT Incentive/Match Programs**
- **Fresh Bucks at Safeway**
- **Direct Certification for Free/Reduced-price School Meals**
- **ORCA LIFT**
- **Assistance obtaining an ID Card (Excludes Licenses)**
- **Basic Food Employment and Training**



Need Assistance with the application?

Visit: <https://www.uwkc.org/benefithub/>



Schedule an Appointment

Schedule an appointment today with one of our Benefits Hub coaches using the drop-down menu below. Phone appointments are available. If you require assistance to make an appointment or have questions about Benefits Hub, please email us at benefithub@uwkc.org or call (206) 461-4536. To connect with your specific Benefits Hub Coach or location, please read below for their on-campus contact information.



Choose a location... ▾



How to apply on your own

Visit:

<https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home/>



If you don't know how to navigate the website:

Watch this short video by DSHS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcnmWMno4s&feature=youtu.be>

