

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.



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