

STUDENT SNAP RESOURCES



What is SNAP?

SNAP benefits, the new name for food stamps, can help you buy food at most grocery stores and some farmers' markets.

Benefits are loaded monthly onto the Lone Star Card, which works similarly to a debit or credit card.



What are the eligibility requirements?

You may qualify if your household's gross monthly income is less than...



For each additional household member add **\$596**

Income guidelines are valid through September 30, 2026. HHSC determines eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

As well as needing to meet income eligibility requirements, undergraduate and graduate students must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Working at least 20 hours per week (and receiving pay for the work)
- Responsible for a child under 6 years old
- Single parent with a child under 12 years old
- Participating in higher education funded by the Workforce Investment Act
- Receiving TANF benefits
- Participating in a work and training program

What documents do you need to apply?

- Photo ID
- Social Security Card (For all household members)
- Proof of income (Check stubs, records of child support paid/received, SSI award letter, etc.)
- Current bills (Rent, utilities, and phone)
- Current bank statement for all accounts in your name
- Document confirming your home address

The Central Texas Food Bank can assist you in applying for SNAP, TANF, CHIP, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program and Healthy Texas Women. This FAQ sheet will answer questions you have about SNAP and the application process.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What can I buy with SNAP Benefits?

Benefits can be used to purchase any food product, including nonalcoholic drinks and food seasonings (i.e., spices). They can also be used to purchase seeds and plants that produce food for the household to eat. The brands of food that you can buy using SNAP benefits are not limited; however, you cannot use SNAP benefits to buy:

- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco
- Pet foods
- Non-food items, such as soaps, paper products, household supplies, vitamins, and medicines
- Hot foods

Who is included in my household?

Anyone you live with who you also purchase and prepare food with is a member of your household. Household members do not have to be related to you. Roommates are typically not considered household members because they buy and prepare food separately.

What if I'm living at home?

People under the age of 22 and living with their parents are considered members of their parents' household and cannot apply for SNAP as an individual.

How does the application process work?

If you would like help with the application process, you can call the Food Bank helpline or visit our website to make an appointment with one of our Social Services Outreach team members. We'll find a convenient time and location to meet with you for 30-45 minutes to complete your application and submit all the required documents to HHSC. Once we submit your application, HHSC should contact you in 1-2 weeks to set up a phone interview, where they'll complete your application by asking you about any additional information they need about your case. HHSC has 30 days to make a decision on your case after receiving your application.

The Central Texas Food Bank can tell you if you might be eligible, answer your questions, and help you apply!

Call our toll-free and confidential helpline at: **1-855-366-3401**
Or visit our website: **centraltexasfoodbank.org/SNAP**

How long do SNAP Benefits Last?

Depending on your situation, benefits can last anywhere from 3 months to 3 years before they have to be renewed. HHSC (the state department that administers SNAP) will send you a letter when it's time to renew. If you would like help with the renewal process, you can call the Food Bank helpline or visit our website to make an appointment with one of our Social Services team members.

Where can I get food assistance today?

In addition to SNAP application assistance, the Food Bank and its partners offer many other resources for food assistance, most of which have no income or asset limits. Visit centraltexasfoodbank.org/get-help/ to locate a partner agency or food distribution near you.

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