



# COVID-19 SNAP FAQs

## What is SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's largest food assistance program; it provides you with an electronic benefit transfer or EBT card, which looks and acts like a credit card exclusively for buying food. SNAP is an entitlement program, like Social Security, so everyone who applies and qualifies for SNAP will get it. You've been paying into SNAP with your taxes your whole working life, and it's there when you need it during times like the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and recessions. SNAP is administered by each state, so this information may not be accurate in Maryland and Virginia. In D.C. SNAP is administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

## How do I qualify?

- All US citizens and some immigrants qualify for SNAP. If you have a green card or came to the US under special circumstances you may qualify. Public charge may apply, you should consult an immigration expert.
- There are income limits for your household size:

Household Size	Gross Income Limit
1	\$2,082
2	\$2,820
3	\$3,556
4	\$4,292
5	\$5,030
6	\$5,766
7	\$6,502
8	\$7,204
Each additional person	+\$738

- If you lost your job, and have no income, you can qualify for SNAP even if you were employed in the beginning of March. D.C. does not have an assets test, so former earnings won't be held against you. Again, this may be different for Maryland or Virginia.
- If you are receiving unemployment, you should report that as income, but can still qualify for SNAP.
- DHS also looks at expenses you may pay such as your rent, childcare, utilities, child support, etc. The best way to see if you may qualify is to visit [dchunger.org/calculator](http://dchunger.org/calculator).

## How do I apply?

- Reach out to D.C. Hunger Solutions for help.
- To apply you will need:
  - Completed application
  - Copies of photo IDs for everyone in the household
  - Any income: paychecks, social security, child support, etc.
  - Copy of your rent
  - Any dependent expenses



- Write your name and phone number on each of these, send copies not original documents if possible
- If you have internet access, visit <https://dcbenefits.dhs.dc.gov/>.
- If you don't have internet access, you can still visit a DHS Service Center. To help enforce social distancing, DHS Service Centers are open only for picking up and dropping off public benefits applications and documents. All applications and documents must be placed in an envelope provided at the Service Center. Write your full name and phone number on this envelope.
- Residents may provide additional information or verification eligibility documents by:
  - Emailing them to [mjensen@dchunger.org](mailto:mjensen@dchunger.org) (please include full name and phone number)
  - Dropping off information at a DHS Service Center
    - H Street: 645 H Street, NE (the main entrance is on 7th Street NE)
    - Taylor Street: 1207 Taylor Street, NW
    - Congress Heights: 4049 South Capitol Street, SW
    - Note: the Fort Davis and Anacostia Service Centers are closed.
  - Mailing documents to a DHS Service Center
- In most cases, an interview is not required during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. New applicants may be contacted by a DHS representative by phone if additional information is needed to complete application processing.

**How much will I receive?**

Due to emergency allotments approved by the USDA, most households will receive close to the maximum benefit, though individual amounts will vary.

Household Size	Monthly Benefit Range
1	\$30-\$194
2	\$30-\$355
3	\$30-\$509
4	\$30-\$646
5	\$30-\$768
6	\$30-\$921
7	\$30-\$1,018
8	\$30-\$1,164
Each additional person	+\$146

**What if I need to recertify for SNAP?**

If you currently receive SNAP you do not need to take any action at this time to continue receiving existing benefits that would otherwise expire during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Those benefits will be automatically extended. **This is true even if you received a notice saying you need to recertify.** A DHS representative will contact you when it is time to recertify.

- If you needed to recertify in February and did not, you need to reapply for benefits (see above).

**I still need help!**



**D.C. Hunger Solutions**

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

Contact the DHS Call Center at (202) 727-5355, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., or leave a message with D.C. Hunger Solutions at 202-640-1088, we will return your call Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.