

SNAP* Facts for Older Virginians

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps

Special Eligibility Rules

There are rules for people aged 60 or over, or living with a disability that make it easier to qualify for SNAP benefits:

- The gross income test does not apply—only net income is considered for eligibility
- The resource limit is higher (\$3250)
- Medical costs are considered when figuring out net income, which can result in a higher benefit amount

Lesser Known SNAP Facts

SNAP supports local businesses—SNAP benefits can be spent at approved stores and farmers' markets. Some farmers' markets even have "Double Bucks" programs that double the value of every SNAP dollar spent at the market.

There are enough SNAP benefits for every person who qualifies—Using SNAP does not take away benefits from other people. Every person who qualifies for SNAP has the right to receive benefits. There is no limit to the number of people who can receive SNAP benefits.

SNAP can be used to buy seeds—SNAP benefits can be used to buy seeds for food-producing plants. This means that SNAP dollars can be used to start or continue a home garden that produces fruit or vegetables.

SNAP benefits can roll over from month to month—SNAP benefits do not "expire" in the month they're distributed. As long as a SNAP card is used at least once every 6 months, benefits can stay untouched until they're needed.

Many people receive more than the minimum benefit—While the minimum monthly SNAP benefit level is \$16, the average monthly benefit per person is \$118 in Virginia.

Know Someone Who Wants to Apply? Tell them there are 3 ways to apply for SNAP: online at Virginia Common Help (www.commonhelp.virginia.gov), in person at their local Department of Social Services (DSS) office, or by mail.

For more information, contact Virginia Hunger Solutions
919 E Main St Suite 610 Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 782-9430 x17
www.vahungersolutions.org

