

SNAP* Income Eligibility

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps

Am I financially eligible for SNAP?

Financial eligibility is determined by a household's size, income, and resources. There are two income requirements that most households must meet: the gross income test and the net income test. "Gross income" means a household's total income before any deductions have been made. "Net income" means gross income minus allowable deductions.

As a general rule, households that have income over the amounts listed below cannot get SNAP benefits.

Effective 9/30/2015 to 9/30/2016

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income	Net Monthly Income
1	\$1,276	\$981
2	\$1,726	\$1,328
3	\$2,177	\$1,675
4	\$2,628	\$2,021
5	\$3,078	\$2,368
6	\$3,529	\$2,715
7	\$3,980	\$3,061
8	\$4,430	\$3,408
Each additional member	+\$451	+\$347

Are there special income rules for individuals who are elderly or disabled?

Yes! Households with at least one person who is age 60 or older, or disabled **do not** have to meet the gross income test. They only have to meet the net income test.

People who are age 60 or older and have a permanent disability that prevents them from purchasing and preparing meals may be able to **get SNAP separately from the other people in their home**. This can result in receiving higher SNAP benefits. To use this rule, the gross income of the other people in the home cannot exceed 165% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Effective 10/1/2015 to 9/30/2016

Household Size (excluding elderly, disabled individual and their spouse)	165% Federal Poverty Line
1	\$1,619
2	\$2,191
3	\$2,763
4	\$3,335
5	\$3,907
6	\$4,479
7	\$5,051
8	\$5,623
Each additional member	+\$572

What deductions are allowed?

All households with income are allowed the following deductions, if appropriate:

- A 20% deduction from earned income
- A standard deduction based on household size (\$155 for households of 1-3 people; \$168 for households of 4 people; \$197 for households of 5 people; \$226 for households of 6 or more people)
- A dependent care expense deduction if you are working, looking for work, or in school or training
- A medical expense deduction for elderly or disabled household members
- Child support paid to an individual or agency outside the home if you are legally obligated to make payments
- A homeless shelter allowance
- A shelter expense deduction for shelter costs that exceed half of the household's "adjusted net income"

"Adjusted net income" = gross income – all deductions

What resources can I have and still receive SNAP benefits?

Households that include at least one person who is age 60 or older, or disabled, can have up to **\$3,250** in countable resources. Households that do not include at least one person who is age 60 or older, or disabled, can have up to **\$2,250** in countable resources.

Only liquid assets will count as resources, including:

- Cash on hand
- Money in bank accounts
- Stocks or bonds
- Lump sum payments
- Funds in a trust

Resources that will NOT count against you include:

- Property
- Mobile homes
- Vehicles
- Household goods, such as furniture and appliances, and personal effects, such as clothing and jewelry
- Burial plots
- Cash value of life insurance policies
- Money in pension or retirement plans
- Money in educational accounts

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:
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