

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Food Stamps (SNAP)



### What are food stamps (SNAP)?

Food stamps (or SNAP) help low-income people buy food. Food stamps come on a card called an EBT card. You can buy most foods with food stamps. You cannot buy prepared foods, soap, alcohol, tobacco, or anything that is not food.

### Can I get food stamps?

Food stamps go to a “household.” A household is everyone who lives together and buys and cooks food together. The table below tells you if you may be able to get food stamps and the most that you can get.

Household size (adults + children)	Max monthly income for food stamps	Max benefit amount
1	\$2,510	\$292
2	\$3,408	\$536
3	\$4,304*	\$768
4	\$5,200*	\$975
5	\$6,098*	\$1,158
6	\$6,994*	\$1,390
7	\$7,890*	\$1,536
8	\$8,788*	\$1,756

*\*If you have very low living expenses, you may not be able to get food stamps. Questions? Call Legal Aid at (202) 628-1161. To check if you can get food stamps, go to [dchunger.org/calculator](https://dchunger.org/calculator).*

### Can I apply if I don't speak English well?

Yes. The law says the government has to help you in your language. Just tell the agency what language you'd like to use.

### Can I get food stamps if I'm not a U.S. citizen?

**Maybe.** Some people who aren't U.S. citizens can get food stamps.

Even if you can't get food stamps, you can still apply for your children or other household members if their immigration category means they can get food stamps. You only have to write the immigration status of the people you're applying for. The government can't ask for more information.

# How do I apply for food stamps?

## Step 1: Get your documents

You can apply for **all** public benefits, including food stamps, TANF, Medicaid, and D.C. Healthcare Alliance, **on the same application**. You'll need these documents. *Do not send the originals! Take a picture or make a copy.*



Photo ID



Social Security card  
(if you have one)



Proof of income  
(such as pay stubs)



Utility bill or other  
proof of address



Birth certificates  
of everyone in  
your household

## Step 2: Complete your application in one of five ways:

**1. In person:** Go to one of these ESA service centers. Ask for a receipt when you apply.

**Anacostia  
Service Center**  
2100 Martin Luther  
King Jr. Ave. SE  
(202) 645-4614

**Congress Heights  
Service Center** 4001  
South Capitol St. SW  
(202) 645-4546

**H Street  
Service Center**  
645 H St. NE  
(202) 698-4350

**Fort Davis  
Service Center**  
3851 Alabama  
Ave. SE  
(202) 645-4500

**Taylor Street  
Service Center**  
1207 Taylor  
St. NW  
(202) 576-8000

**2. Smartphone:** Download the **District Direct app** in the app store. Apply through your phone. Write down your confirmation number.

**3. Online:** Apply online through District Direct at [districtdirect.dc.gov/ua](https://districtdirect.dc.gov/ua) Write down your confirmation number. Save a copy of what you submit.

**4. Mail:** Print the application at [dhs.dc.gov/page/apply-recertify-benefits](https://dhs.dc.gov/page/apply-recertify-benefits). Send in the application and copies of your documents to a Service Center (listed above). Keep proof that you mailed in your application. *(This option isn't recommended.)*

**5. Fax:** Print the application at [dhs.dc.gov/page/apply-recertify-benefits](https://dhs.dc.gov/page/apply-recertify-benefits). Fax the completed application to DHS ESA at (202) 671-4400.

## After I apply, how quickly will I get a decision on my application?

Usually, the government has **30 days** to process your application. You can ask for your application to be processed in 7 days ("expedited processing") if:

- You earn less than \$150/month **and** have less than \$100 in savings; or
- Your rent plus utilities are more than your income

You'll get a notice by mail or on the app telling you if your application was approved or denied.

## I didn't get food stamps or stopped getting them. What can I do?

You have the right to appeal. You need to appeal within 90 days of the notice that your food stamps were denied, cut off, or reduced. There are three steps to appeal.

1. Get the **appeal form** online at [oah.dc.gov/node/154252](https://oah.dc.gov/node/154252)

2. **Fill out** the appeal form

3. **File** the form in one of these ways *(always keep a copy of the form for yourself when you file):*

a. **Email** it to [oah.filing@dc.gov](mailto:oah.filing@dc.gov)

b. **Bring it in person** to the Office of Administrative Hearings at 441 Fourth St. NW, Suite 450N

c. **Mail** to the Office of Administrative Hearings at the address above *(This option isn't recommended)*

*You might be able to keep your food stamps while waiting for your hearing. Ask for a hearing before the date your benefits get cut off or reduced (find this date on the notice). Say it's an emergency.*