

## SNAP Benefits

<b>What is Food Assistance?</b>	The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is known as the Food Assistance Program in Florida and is administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). This program helps people with low income buy healthy food. The benefits are 100% federally funded and the administration costs are matched 50/50 with state and federal funds.
<b>Legal Basis</b>	Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 271 – 285
<b>Who Can Get Food Assistance?</b>	<p>A food assistance household is a group of people who live, buy food, and cook meals together. Individuals living in an institution are not eligible to get food assistance unless they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents of a federally subsidized housing for the elderly(age 60 or older);</li> <li>• Residents of drug and alcohol treatment facilities;</li> <li>• Residents of group living arrangements for disabled or blind;</li> <li>• Temporary residents of a shelter for battered women and children; or</li> <li>• Residents of a public or private nonprofit shelter for homeless persons.</li> </ul> <p>These individuals may get food assistance as an individual even though they may eat with others at the facility. The individual <u>may</u> appoint someone in writing, to apply for them as their Authorized Representative. The Authorized Representative must agree to apply for and use the benefits on behalf of the individual.</p>
<b>Income/Asset Limits</b>	Most households must pass a gross income limit at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and a net income at 100% of the FPL. Households with elderly or disabled members must only meet the net income limit. Some household expenses that may be subtracted from the monthly income in the food assistance budget are housing expenses, dependent care, medical expenses, child support paid, and standard deductions. Most food assistance households may have assets and still get help.
<b>Applying for Food Assistance</b>	The Web Application CF-ES 2353 found at <a href="http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/">http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/</a> or with a paper application, the ACCESS Florida Application CF-ES 2337.
<b>Eligibility Determination</b>	The individual must meet financial and technical eligibility criteria such as residency, citizenship, and SSN. The amount of food assistance depends on the number of people in the household and how much money is left after allowable expenses are subtracted. The maximum amount one person can get is \$200 per month and the minimum amount, if eligible, is \$16.
<b>What Can Be Purchased with Food Assistance?</b>	<p>Households can use food assistance to buy eligible or staple foods as defined by law and regulation. These include:</p> <p>Food intended for humans to eat such as breads, cereals, energy drinks with a nutrition facts label, fruits, vegetables, meats, fish, poultry, and dairy products. This also includes seeds and plants, which produce foods to eat. Because coffee, tea, soft drinks, candy, cookies, snack crackers, ice cream, seafood, steak, and bakery cakes are food items, these are also eligible foods. Meals prepared, served, or delivered (including meals on wheels) to elderly individuals, individuals who get SSI, or residents of eligible institutions are also included.</p> <p>Households cannot use SNAP benefits to buy:</p> <p>Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, pet foods, soap, paper products, household supplies, vitamins, medicines, hot foods or foods prepared for immediate consumption in the store, and energy drinks with a supplemental facts label.</p>
<b>For more information</b>	For more information about the Food Assistance Program in Florida, visit the ACCESS Florida web site at <a href="http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/foodassistance.shtml">http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/foodassistance.shtml</a> .