



SNAP Outreach Training

What is SNAP?

Goals

- Introduction to SNAP
- History of SNAP
- SNAP in ND
- Benefits of SNAP
- Eligibility for SNAP
- EBT Card
- What Can you Purchase With SNAP
- Application Process
- Review
- Contact Information



Introduction to SNAP

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is part of the nation's safety net against hunger.
- SNAP was previously called the Food Stamp Program.
- SNAP helps low-income people and families buy the food they need for good health.
- Benefits are provided via electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card once a month.
- SNAP is administered by the states and overseen by the USDA and the FNS.



History

- In 1939, the Food Stamp Plan was initiated which helped needy families purchase food.
- In 1961 the Food Stamp Program began as a pilot program and became law in 1964.
- In 1970, ND had 41 counties participating.
- In 1974, all counties in ND were mandated to have to participate.
- The Food Stamp Act of 1977 removed the requirement that food stamps be purchased.
- The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorized the program under the new name of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).



ND SNAP

- 45% of food pantry clients also receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- 88% are likely eligible based on income.



Benefits of SNAP

- **Helps Low-Income Families**
- **Helps the State and Local Communities**
- **Helps Business and Workers**
- **Helps Food Programs**



Helps Low Income Families..

- ***Stretch food dollars.*** Those receiving SNAP benefits spend more money on food than other low-income households. Every additional dollar's worth of SNAP benefits generates 17 to 47 cents of new spending on food.
- ***Fight obesity through education.*** Nutrition educators teach SNAP participants the importance of a quality diet, how to prepare healthy foods, and how to make healthy choices.
- ***Put food on the table for their children.*** SNAP benefits are an investment in our future. More than fifty percent of participants are children.
- ***Keep elderly family members independent.*** For the elderly, participation can help improve nutritional status and well-being and increase independence. Nine percent of participants are age 60 or older.
- ***Transition to self sufficiency.*** SNAP helps participants become financially stable and provides needed support as they transition to self sufficiency. Half of all new participants leave the program within nine months.



Helps the State and Local Communities

- **Generate economic activity.** Every \$5 in new food stamp benefits generates \$9.20 in total community spending.
- **Leverage Federal funds.** SNAP benefits are Federal funds. By increasing the number of people in SNAP, communities can bring Federal money into their States and communities.
- **Support Local Food Retailers.** The average monthly SNAP benefit is approximately \$200, which is spent in local grocery stores.
- **Support farms.** On average, \$1 billion of retail food demand by food stamp recipients generates 3,300 farm jobs.



Helps Businesses and Workers...

- ***Achieve Optimal Performance.*** Employees whose food needs are met at home may have higher productivity and take fewer sick days for themselves and their children.
- ***Attain Self-Sufficiency.*** SNAP benefits supplement the food budgets of low income workers so they can stay independent and work toward self-sufficiency.



Helps Food Programs..

- ***Stretch Resources and Food Further.***
SNAP is the front line for defense against hunger. If clients can purchase more of their own food, pantries can dedicate more of their food and resources to emergency use.



Major Components of Eligibility

- Household Composition
- Income
- Shelter/Expenses



Household Composition

- A SNAP household is a group of people who live together, buy food as a group, and prepare meals as a group. They do not have to be related.
- Children under the age of 22 are considered part of their household income, unless they are living apart from their parents.
- A SNAP household does not necessarily need an address.



Income

People in Household	Gross Income	Net Income
1	\$1,850	\$903
2	2,429	1,215
3	3,052	1,526
4	3,675	1,838
5	4,299	2,150
6	4,922	2,461
7	5,545	2,773



*through September 2011. Determined by federal government

Shelter/Expenses

- **Benefit amount is calculated based on income and expenses.**
- **Expenses Include:**
 - Farm Loss Offset
 - Child Support
 - Medical costs (for elderly or disabled individuals)
 - Dependent Care Costs
- **Shelter Costs Include:**
 - Rent/Mortgage
 - Property Tax/Homeowner's Insurance
 - Utility Allowance



Benefits

People in Household	Maximum Monthly Benefit
1	\$200
2	367
3	526
4	668
5	793
6	952
7	1,052



EBT Card

- SNAP no longer uses paper coupons or stamps.
- Money is deposited at the beginning of the month into an account. The funds can be accessed through the EBT card, similar to a debit card.
- EBT cards are accepted in all 50 states.
- EBT cards can be accepted at grocery stores, convenience stores, farmer's markets and other venues that sell food, but cannot be used to purchase food online.



What SNAP Covers

- **SNAP Benefits covers:**
 - Food
 - Beverages
 - Food-producing seeds and plants.
- **SNAP Benefits DO NOT cover:**
 - Alcohol, tobacco, pet food, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, or any other non-food item.
 - Heated (prepared) foods.



Application Process

- **Obtain an application.**
 - Great Plains Food Bank
 - County Social Service Office
 - Online at DHS website:
<https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/dhs/ea/oasys/login.htm>
- **Fill out an application**
- **Mail/drop off/submit application to the local county social service department.**
- **County will contact client to schedule an interview.**



Review

- **Every 6 months for households or every 12 months for households with elderly or disabled individuals.**
 - **Fill out Review Form**
 - **Provide verification**
 - **Interview (if necessary)**



Contact Info

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- **Local County Office:**
 - <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/>

