

AGENCY USE ONLY

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**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services
_____ County Department of Social Services**

SIMPLIFIED NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) APPLICATION

(Name and Address)

(DSS Name and Address)

┌ _____ ┌ _____

└ _____ └ _____

What Am I Applying For?

We have good news for you about Food and Nutrition Services! You may be qualified for the Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) because you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and you are at least 65 years old. If you are eligible for SNAP, you will automatically receive Food and Nutrition Services monthly.

How Do I Apply For SNAP?

To apply for the program, simply answer the questions below, sign this letter, and send it back to us in the enclosed envelope.

1. Does your spouse live in the home? Yes No
If yes, list their name and date of birth _____
2. Does anyone get Food and Nutrition Services, Food Stamps, or SNAP in another county or state? Yes No If yes, who? _____
What County or State? _____
3. How much do you pay for rent, mortgage, and/or lot rent each month? _____
4. Do other people live with you? Yes No If yes, how many? _____
If yes, do you buy and cook your food separately? Yes No
5. Do you pay to heat your home? Yes No
Type of heat: (Circle one) *Fuel Oil* *Natural Gas* *LP Gas* *Electricity* *Wood*
Coal *Kerosene*
6. What is your date of birth? _____
7. Do you or anyone in your household get food from the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations? Yes No

How Can I Get More Information About SNAP?

If you would like additional information, please call your local Department of Social Services at _____ or contact the DHHS Customer Services Center at 1-800-662-7030. We will be glad to answer your questions.

By signing this application I am saying that I understand the attached form explaining the Food and Nutrition Services Program information and my rights and responsibilities.

X _____
Applicant Signature Date Area Code and Phone Number
X _____
Witness Signature (If signed with an "X") Date

PLEASE READ INFORMATION ON BACK OF THIS PAGE

What Happens After I Return My Application to Social Services?

Once we receive this signed application and determine that you are eligible, we will send you an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card and instructions for using it. You will receive a new EBT card even if you already have one. We hope you will find this way of receiving Food and Nutrition Services easy.

What If I Need Someone to Apply For or Use My SNAP Benefits For Me?

If you want someone other than yourself to use, or obtain information about your benefits, please check the box below. If you check **Yes**, we will mail you a form. You and the person you want to help can complete the form and return it to our office. This person will receive an EBT card and will have access to your benefits.

I need someone to help me get and use my benefits. Yes No

Thank you for applying for the Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). We hope this way of receiving benefits will be easier for you and prove to be more helpful in purchasing food.

Language Preference

Do you want to receive your notices in a language other than English? If yes, what language?

For Agency Use Only – Do Not Write In Space Below

Approved Certification Period: From _____ to _____

Denied Reason for Denial: _____

Certification Worker Signature: _____

Date of Disposition: _____

Comments: _____

SIMPLIFIED NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Program Information and Your Rights and Responsibilities

Keep This Page for Your Records

What Is SNAP?

SNAP is a simplified version of the Food and Nutrition Services Program that seeks to deliver food to older adults in a new way. Many Food and Nutrition Services Program rules do not apply. SNAP is a six year project that arose from a partnership between the North Carolina Division of Social Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

Who Is Eligible?

DSS identified and mailed applications to individuals who receive SSI, and:

- Are age 65 or older;
- Are not living in an institution;
- Live in North Carolina; and
- Buy and cook food separate from other people living in the home.

What Am I Going to Receive?

If you are eligible for SNAP, we will automatically deposit either \$61 or \$121 into your Food and Nutrition Services benefits account every month. The amount you receive depends on your monthly rent or mortgage amount. We will send you a plastic card called an EBT Card that you can use to purchase most food items at participating grocery stores across the State. This method of receiving benefits is called Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT). You may allow another person to get an EBT card so that person can use your benefits to purchase food for you. After applying for the program, you will receive an EBT card and instructions for using it if you are eligible.

Note: If your rent or mortgage expenses are more than \$250 per month, or your medical expenses are more than \$35 per month, you may qualify for more benefits by applying for the regular Food and Nutrition Services Program. If you want to apply for the regular Food and Nutrition Services Program, you or your representative must contact your local DSS agency to apply.

What Are My Rights?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers, found online at http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/contact_info/hotlines.htm.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Program Information and Your Rights and Responsibilities (Continued)

Keep This Page for Your Records

Will My Information Be Kept Confidential?

Federal and State laws and regulations limit the use of confidential information for applicants and recipients of the Food and Nutrition Services Program. This information is used for purposes directly related to the administration of these programs.

We use your Social Security Number (SSN) to collect information from sources other than DSS to:

- Make sure your household is eligible for benefits;
- Check the identity of household members;
- Prevent households from getting more benefits than they should; and
- Identify groups of cases that must be changed.

We do this through program reviews, audits, or computer matching with other agencies such as the Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, and data matching sources.

What Are The Penalties For Misusing My Benefits?

- Don't hide or give wrong information on purpose to get Food and Nutrition Services Benefits.
- Don't use Food and Nutrition Services Benefits to buy non-food items like alcohol or tobacco.
- Don't use Food and Nutrition Services Benefits to buy or sell firearms, ammunition, explosives, or illegal drugs.
- Don't trade or sell your Food and Nutrition Services Benefits.
- Don't use someone else's Food and Nutrition Services Benefits for yourself.
- Don't use your Food and Nutrition Services Benefits for someone else.
- Don't use your Food and Nutrition Services Benefits to pay on any kind of credit account.

If you intentionally break any of the rules above you may not be able to get any more Food and Nutrition Services benefits from one year to permanently, and may be fined up to \$250,000 and/or jailed up to twenty years.

Giving wrong information may also mean we will reduce your benefits, or you may be required to repay benefits.