

# 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, your benefits will automatically be deposited 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.

## Program Information and Your Rights and Responsibilities (Continued)

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#### **What Are My Rights?**

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](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](mailto: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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

#### **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.