

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

OVERVIEW

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, helps low-income families purchase food at grocery stores and other places where food is sold. Benefits are provided on the [Illinois Link Card](#) - an electronic card (also referred to as EBT, Electronic Benefits Transfer) that is accepted at most grocery stores.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture oversees the program. The Department of Human Services administers the program in Illinois.

WHO IS SERVED?

Population(s)/Age Group:

Households with countable income below 130% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) can get SNAP benefits. (200% FPL if the household includes someone who is 60 or older or has a disability).

Eligibility Criteria and Screening Tools:

SNAP is a federal entitlement program. This means that anyone who is eligible will receive benefits. The number of persons who live together and buy and prepare food together. Eligibility is based on a household's size, income and expenses. The [SNAP Eligibility Calculator](#) can provide an estimate of possible benefits based on household factors; information must be verified by IDHS. If the applicant is found eligible, they will receive a notice of eligibility.

HOW ARE SERVICES DELIVERED?

Local Service System:

Eligible persons can apply for SNAP benefits in the following ways:

- Online using the [Application for Benefits Eligibility \(ABE\)](#) to apply for SNAP, as well as cash and medical assistance.
- Using a Paper Application
- In person at a local Family Community Resource Center

Referrals into Program:

Self, case manager

Data Systems Used:

The Client Database

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OR CONTACT

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(800) 843-6154 (automated helpline)

Program Website: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30357>