

SNAP Benefits come on a plastic card that looks like a credit card. It is called the Benefit Security Card. You can get more information about the card at your local Department of Human Services or your local Legal Services/Legal Aid office.



Contact Information

West Tennessee Legal Services
731-423-0616
1-800-372-8346
Fax: 731-423-2600
www.wtls.org

Jackson Office
210 W. Main Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Dyersburg Office
208 S. Church Street
Dyersburg, TN 38024

Huntingdon Office
113 W. Paris Street
Huntingdon, TN 38344

Selmer Office
141 N. Third Street
Selmer, TN 38375

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WTLS EEOC Officer
P.O. Box 2066
Jackson, TN 38302-2066

WEST TENNESSEE LEGAL SERVICES



SNAP Benefits for The Homeless

formerly Food Stamps



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FACT SHEET

Get a SNAP Benefit Application Form and apply

You can get SNAP Benefit applications at the local Department of Human Services (DHS) Office. Everyone who comes to DHS to apply for SNAP Benefits must be given an application, be allowed to fill it out and turn it in the same day. You can also apply online at www.tn.gov.

Institutionalized persons

Usually people who live in an institution, and get most of their meals there, are not eligible for SNAP Benefits. However, there are some exceptions to this rule. If you live at a public or private nonprofit shelter for homeless persons, you can still get SNAP Benefits.

Fixed address-needed or not?

Homeless persons generally don't have an address, and sometimes this has been a problem when applying for SNAP or other benefits. A fixed address is not necessary! You can get SNAP Benefits, even if you do not have an address.

Waiting time to get SNAP benefits

Sometimes, in emergency cases, you can get SNAP Benefits within 7 days. This is called "Expedited Service". In many cases, a homeless person meets the requirements for expedited service. (You must have less than \$150 in monthly gross income, and not more than \$100 in liquid resources such as cash.) If your income or resources are too high for the expedited service, you will get benefits within 30 days.



Verifying identity

When you apply, you will have to verify your identity (ID). Usually people use papers, such as a birth certificate or driver's license for ID. If you don't have any of these papers, someone else can "vouch" for you and verify your identity and where you stay. Often staff at the shelter or where you stay can do this for you.

Shelter costs

If you are homeless, but still have any shelter costs you can get a shelter deduction. You may be allowed deduction for shelter costs, without verifying the actual amount of costs that you have.

Cooking facilities-needed or not?

You no longer have to have a place to cook food in order to get SNAP Benefits.

Using SNAP Benefits to get food

Once you are certified for SNAP Benefits, you can use SNAP Benefits to buy food in authorized stores. Most grocery stores are authorized. Also, you can use your SNAP Benefits to buy prepared meals from authorized homeless meal providers like nonprofit soup kitchens. You may be able to use SNAP Benefits to buy meals at certain communal dining facilities or from a meal delivery system. Your local Department of Human Services office can tell you where you can use SNAP Benefits.



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