



# Questions and Answers about Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and non-citizens



**Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to get SNAP?**  
Some legal non-citizens can get SNAP. If you are an eligible you may qualify. Ask your local county office.



**Does applying for SNAP hurt my chance of becoming a citizen?**  
If you are a legal non-citizen and you get SNAP, it will not hurt your chances of becoming a citizen.



**Can I apply for SNAP if I do not have legal status?**  
Undocumented people can't get SNAP. But citizens and eligible legal non-citizens who live with them can get SNAP.



**Can children of undocumented persons get SNAP?**  
Children of undocumented non-citizens can get SNAP if they are citizens or lawful permanent residents.



**Are undocumented people who apply for SNAP or live with people who get SNAP reported to United States Citizenship & Immigration Services?**  
SNAP information is confidential. If you are not documented or choose to be a non-applicant, you will not be asked for your immigration documents. Other members of the household can still apply and may be eligible.



**Do I have to pay SNAP benefits back?**  
People who get SNAP in the right amount and provide the correct information do not have to pay the benefits back. If you get SNAP because of wrong information, you will have to repay the incorrect SNAP benefit amount.



**Does it hurt my sponsor if I get SNAP?**  
No, it does not hurt your sponsor. A sponsor's income is usually counted when you apply for SNAP. However, there are some exceptions and you may ask your local county office about them.



**Can I receive SNAP if I have a green card and work?**  
Many legal non-citizens are eligible. Generally, if you have been in the U.S. legally for five years, or are a child under age 18, get disability-related benefits, or have enough work history in the U.S., you may be able to get SNAP.



**Can I apply for SNAP if I do not speak English?**  
Limited English proficiency (LEP) services are available if you cannot communicate effectively with your county office. You have the right to access through an interpreter, translated document, or methods that are reasonable for your local county office to provide to you.



**Do I have to provide my own interpreter when I apply for SNAP?**  
No, the local county office can provide an interpreter, translated forms or other reasonable methods that will be meaningful to you while accessing information and receiving services. You may initiate request for LEP services or you may be offered services.

## Contact:



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## Discrimination is against the law.

You have the right to file a discrimination complaint if you believe you were treated in a discriminatory way by a human services agency. You can contact any of the following agencies directly to file a civil rights complaint.

The **Minnesota Department of Human Services, Equal Opportunity and Access Division**, prohibits discrimination in its programs because of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sexual orientation, public assistance status, age, disability, sex, or political beliefs. Contact the Equal Opportunity and Access Division directly only if you have a discrimination complaint:

Minnesota Department of Human Services  
Equal Opportunity and Access Division  
P.O. Box 64997  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0997  
651-431-3040 (voice) or use your preferred relay service

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and **U.S. Department of Agriculture** (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866 632 9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: 202-690-7442; or
3. email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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