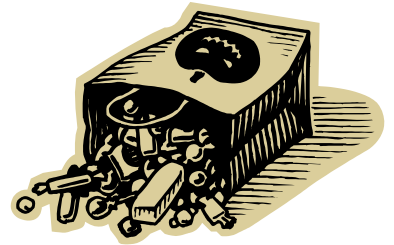


## ***SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps) Can Help Working Families!***

SNAP is designed to help low-income people buy the food they need for good health. Many working families do not realize they are eligible for this important benefit that can be used at most grocery stores and supermarkets. Authorized restaurants can also accept SNAP in exchange for meals.

Households can use SNAP to buy foods such as breads and cereals, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy products, as well as seeds and plants that grow food for the home. Sales tax cannot be charged on items bought with SNAP, but keep in mind that SNAP funds cannot be exchanged for cash.



SNAP CANNOT be used for certain items such as beer, liquor, cigarettes, pet foods, soaps, paper products, and household supplies.

If you or any member of your household is receiving Cash Assistance or SSI, you are eligible for SNAP, regardless of your income. If a member of your household is elderly or disabled, and if you have high medical care or housing costs, you may be eligible for SNAP regardless of your income. U.S. citizens and some non-citizens who are admitted for permanent residency can qualify.

For other households not receiving cash assistance or SSI, your monthly income cannot exceed certain limits set by the federal government each year in order to qualify for the program. Also, **all** childcare costs are now deducted from your income as long as you provide proof of the amount.

Pennsylvania issues SNAP using the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. EBT uses a plastic card similar to an ATM card to transfer funds from a SNAP account to a retailer's account. With an EBT card, SNAP customers pay for groceries without any paper coupons changing hands.

You can apply for benefits by completing an application with PA Department of Public Welfare or using the COMPASS website. The COMPASS site is available in English, Spanish and many other languages.

**[www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)**

***SNAP is a great way to provide for your family's nutritional needs!***



**Disclaimer: We have attempted to insure the accuracy of the information in this pamphlet at the time it was created or revised. However, the law does change, sometimes quickly and unexpectedly. Therefore, you should consult an attorney before taking or refraining from any action based on the information in this pamphlet.**

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