

How do I apply?

Applying is easy. There are several options to fit any schedule. In fact, you may be able to sign up for SNAP without ever visiting an office!

- You can apply at any Office of Public Assistance. Offices are located in:

Anaconda	Fort Benton	Malta
Baker	Glasgow	Miles City
Big Timber	Glendive	Missoula
Billings	Great Falls	Plentywood
Bozeman	Hamilton	Polson
Browning	Hardin	Red Lodge
Butte	Harlem	Roundup
Choteau	Havre	Shelby
Columbus	Helena	Sidney
Conrad	Kalispell	Superior
Cut Bank	Lame Deer	Terry
Deer Lodge	Lewistown	Thompson Falls
Dillon	Libby	Wh. Sul. Springs
Forsyth	Livingston	Wolf Point

- You can mail or fax in your application. Applications can be downloaded at <http://vhsp.dphhs.mt.gov/publicassistance/index.shtml>.
- You can call the office and ask for a telephone interview.
- You can have another adult apply on your behalf.



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When you have your SNAP interview, you will need to bring:

- Personal identification (such as a driver's license, library card, Medicare card or doctor's bill)
- Social Security numbers for everyone for whom you are applying (actual card usually not required)
- Proof of your rent and utility expenses (such as bills, receipts, lease agreement or mortgage)
- Proof of your income (such as pay stubs or verification of pensions)

For more information, please contact the Montana Food Bank Network, your state-wide SNAP partner:
1-800-809-4752
snap@mfbn.org



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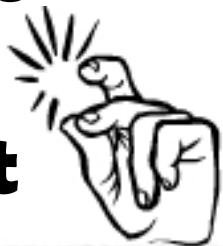
Buying Good Food is a SNAP!



SNAP RULES HAVE CHANGED! If you have applied in the past and been denied, now's the time to try again! (see inside for details)

- * Stretch food dollars
- * Help the economy

Now's the time to check out SNAP!



NEW: For many applicants, income limits have gone up.

NEW: For many applicants, there is NO MORE ASSET LIMIT.

NEW SNAP Income Limits

(Effective Oct. 1, 2009 through Sept. 30, 2010)

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income	Gross Annual Income
1	\$1,671	\$20,052
2	\$2,248	\$26,976
3	\$2,824	\$33,888

*Add \$578 per month for each additional household member.

Applicants also need to meet a Net Income Limit in order to qualify, which is calculated by a case worker. Applicants can receive several deductions for living expenses to help them meet the Net Income Limit.

Households with elderly or disabled members do not need to meet the Gross Income Limit, only the Net Income Limit.

Some households with a previously disqualified member will need to meet a lower Gross Income Limit. Call for details.

What is SNAP?

SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

(Formerly known as the Food Stamp Program)

It's a program designed to help make ends meet so that people can afford healthy food.

SNAP is...

- **Important**—Over 98,000 Montanans have discovered the buying power of SNAP. SNAP provides support to hard-working folks during hard times.
- **Valuable**—SNAP brought \$90,000,000 of federal money into Montana last year, which benefits local grocers, farmers and the economy.
- **Available to everyone who qualifies**—There are enough benefits for everyone. Participating in SNAP does NOT take benefits way from anyone who needs it more.
- **Convenient and discreet**—Benefits are now transferred onto a card that looks and works like a bank debit card. Applications can be mailed, and interviews can be held over the phone.
- **Essential for healthy families**—About 80% of SNAP benefits go to households with children, and over half of recipients live in households where at least one family member is employed.



SNAP FACTS

1. SNAP benefits come on a card that looks and works like a bank debit card. Shopping with SNAP is easy and discreet.
2. **WORKING FAMILIES:** Many working families receive SNAP. If you fall within the income guidelines, you may be able to participate. Plus, you can deduct the full amount of your child care expenses, which will help you qualify for a higher benefit.
3. **SENIORS:** You can receive SNAP benefits and still get commodities and meals-on-wheels.
4. **MONTHLY BENEFIT:** The minimum monthly benefit for small households is \$16, but most families and seniors receive much more than that. The average monthly benefit in Montana is over \$130 per person.
5. **ASSETS:** Money in retirement accounts will not count against you. You can also own a home and vehicles and still get SNAP.
6. **THE INTERVIEW:** An interview is required for enrollment in SNAP, but you can request a phone interview instead of going to the office. You can also ask someone you know to attend the interview for you as your authorized representative or ask someone to come with you.

