

# FOOD STAMPS FACT SHEET



## WHO CAN GET FOOD STAMPS?

Any household may qualify if its income and resources are low enough.

## HOUSEHOLDS MAY BE ANY OF THESE

- An person living alone
- An person living with others but who buys food and cooks meals separately
- A group of people living together who buy food and cook meals together
- Parents living with their kids 21 years old or younger. The adult children can be married or not. Their kids can live with them or not.
- Adult children (22 years or older) living with their parents can have a separate household as long as they buy and cook their meals separately
- A woman (with or without kids) living in a battered woman's shelter

## HOW TO QUALIFY FOR FOOD STAMPS

Eligibility is determined basically by two things:

- Your household's gross income, and
- Your household's resources.

## RESOURCES

- \$2,000 in money and property is allowed for any household.
- \$3,000 in money and property is allowed for households with at least one person who is disabled or age 60 or older.
- If you have children under the age of 18 in the household, you can have unlimited resources.

## RESOURCES NOT DETERMINING WHEN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

- Your home and lot
- Cash surrender value of life insurance policies
- Household goods and personal property
- All Vehicles
- Cash value of certain pension funds
- Work-related tools and equipment

## INCOME

To be eligible, your monthly gross income (before payroll deductions) must be the same or below the amount listed in the chart for your household size.

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Maximum Gross Monthly Income	\$1107	\$1484	\$1861	\$2238	\$2615	\$2992	\$3369	\$3746	\$4123

## COLLEGE STUDENT

Eligible college students (age 18 to 49) must either:

- Work at least 20 hours per week
- Get Work Study
- Have parental responsibility for a child under age 6
- Go to school full-time and, be a single parent with responsibility for a dependent child under age 12

## OTHER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

If you are receiving CalWORKs or GA, you may be automatically eligible for Food Stamps. (SSI/SSP recipients are not eligible for Food Stamps.)

## EXPEDITED SERVICES

You may get Expedited Food Stamps service if:

- Your Gross monthly income and liquid resources are less than your rent/mortgage and utilities; OR
- Your gross monthly income is less than \$150, and your total household liquid resources are less than \$100.

Proof of identification is required. After your interview, if you are eligible, you will get your Expedited Food Stamps within 3 calendar days.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- State law requires some Food Stamp recipients to be fingerprinted.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR AGED & DISABLED HOUSEHOLDS

If you are 60yrs old or older, or you are receiving Social Security Disability (not SSI/SSP), or Medi-cal due to a disability, or a full VA pension: you may be eligible to have income higher than the regular limits, if you pay very high rent and utilities and/or have medical expenses well over \$35 per month. 558-4186 for more information.

## HOW MUCH FOOD STAMPS CAN YOU GET?

The size of your household and your monthly income determine how much you get each month. The less monthly income you have, the more Food Stamps you get.

## HOW TO TRANSACT FOOD STAMP BENEFITS

You get your Food Stamps on a Golden State Advantage card. You use it like a debit card at markets throughout the City. The stores will have machines where you can swipe your card. The amount you spend will be automatically deducted from the Food Stamp account.

## YOUR RIGHTS

Whether you are eligible or not, you have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and courtesy when you apply for Food Stamps. IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE NO BEEN TREATED EQUALLY, CONTACT: DHS Civil Rights Office Complain Line 557-6574

## INTERVIEW LANGUAGE

Applicants may be interviewed in the following languages: Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese), Russian, Vietnamese, Tagalog, hearing impaired, and others if necessary

## STATE HEARING

If you want to appeal your case, you may write for a state hearing to APPEALS UNIT, S600 – DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, P.O. BOX 7988, SAN FRANCISCO, and CA 94120.

## APPLY

### IN PERSON

SF Department of Human Services, 1235 Mission St. (Btw. 8th and 9th Streets)

**OPEN MONDAY – FRIDAY 8AM – 5PM**

If you cannot get to the office, someone who knows your circumstances, and is authorized by you, can apply and be interviewed for you. If you are disabled and cannot get someone to apply for you, you may be able to apply by mail. Call the Outreach Hotline: 558-1001

### ON LINE

[www.benefitsf.org](http://www.benefitsf.org) OR [www.benefitscalwin.org](http://www.benefitscalwin.org)

## VERIFICATION DOCUMENTS YOU NEED TO SUBMIT WITH YOUR APPLICATION

Category	Documents	Category	Documents
<b>Social Security Numbers</b>	Social Security Cards	<b>Medical Bills</b>	Medical Bills for All Members
<b>Residence</b>	Driver's License ▪ Check Stub ▪ Rent or Mortgage Receipt ▪ Utility Bill	<b>Other Income</b>	Current Benefit Check ▪ Copies of Child Support Checks ▪ Alimony Checks
<b>Earned Income</b>	Dated Check Stubs for the Last 30 Days ▪ Statement from your Employer ▪ Copy of Last Year's Tax Return	<b>Housing and Other Bills</b>	Mortgage or Rent Receipts ▪ Lease or Statement from your Landlord ▪ Property Tax Statement ▪ Utility Bills
<b>Assets</b>	Bank Statements ▪ Mortgage Statements ▪ Life Insurance Policies, etc	<b>Identity of Applicant</b>	Birth Certificate ▪ Driver's License ▪ Pay Check ▪ Voter Registration Card ▪ School Records ▪ U.S. Passport
<b>Resources</b>	Bank Statements Showing Savings and Checking ▪ Mortgage Statements ▪ Life Insurance Policies ▪ Statements of Stocks, Bonds or Certificates of Deposit (CDs)	<b>Medical Bills</b>	Only Needed for Household Members who are Aged 60 Years or Older or Permanently Disabled ▪ Billing Statement ▪ Itemized Receipts
<b>Immigration Status</b>	Permanent Resident Card ▪ T or U Visa	<b>Vehicle Registration</b>	Department of Motor Vehicle Registration Certificate

This Fact Sheet is current as of June 2010. It is not to be used as a substitute for Federal, State or County regulations. The SF Department of Human Services has copies of current regulations you may review.