

Food Stamps are now a SNAP!

Frequently asked questions surrounding Food Stamp Program / SNAP

There have been many changes made recently to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – the new name for the Food Stamp Program. More people than ever are now eligible for benefits. Many myths surrounding SNAP have potential participants asking many questions and erroneously thinking they are ineligible. Make sure you give your clientele the facts before they decide not to apply for benefits. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions.

- **Do I have to go into the County Assistance Office (also known as the welfare office) to apply? No** -You can call Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center, and we can apply for you over the phone or mail an application to you. **1-800-634-2033**
- **Do I have to go into the County Assistance Office to get benefits? No** – While an interview with a case worker is required, they are to be conducted over the telephone unless the household requests a face-to face interview.
- **If I live with someone but buy my own food, do I have to include their income? No** - Individuals, who live together but buy, eat, and prepare meals separately, may have separate SNAP household status with some exceptions (for example a person under the age of 22, who is living with their parent or guardian, must include the parent/guardian's income and vice-versa).
- **If I own my house or a vehicle or have monetary resources, such as IRAs, CDs, and savings, could I still be eligible? Yes** – These items are to be reported but are not counted against you. The only time they are used to calculate your benefits as income is when you receive interest or annuity payments from them or income from a non-residential property that is being rented out.
- **If I am over the age of 60 or disabled and my income is above the standard 160% limit could I still qualify? Yes** – Income guidelines for people over the age of 60 or disabled are higher. All eligible one- or two-person households with gross monthly incomes below 200% of poverty qualify for the minimum SNAP benefit of \$16. These same households can also deduct many out-of-pocket medical expenses, such as health insurance premiums and co-pays, in addition to shelter expenses. And if they think \$16 a month doesn't seem worth it, ask them if they would throw away \$192 in groceries a year.

Call the Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center's toll-free SNAP/Food Stamp line at 1-800-634-2033 today! Free text relay is also available via our website at http://www.pahunger.org/html/hunger/Food_Stamp_Outreach.html.

We can answer any and all questions regarding SNAP (the Food Stamp Program). We also screen people for eligibility and can apply for them right over the phone!