Food Resources for College Students

February 2023



Alison Volz, MPH Community Educator avolz@hungercoalition.org



The Coalition Against Hunger

We strive to build a community where all people have the food they need to lead healthy lives

Immediate Relief



Food Pantries & Soup Kitchens

Short-term Relief



SNAP (Food Stamps) enrollment

Long-term Change



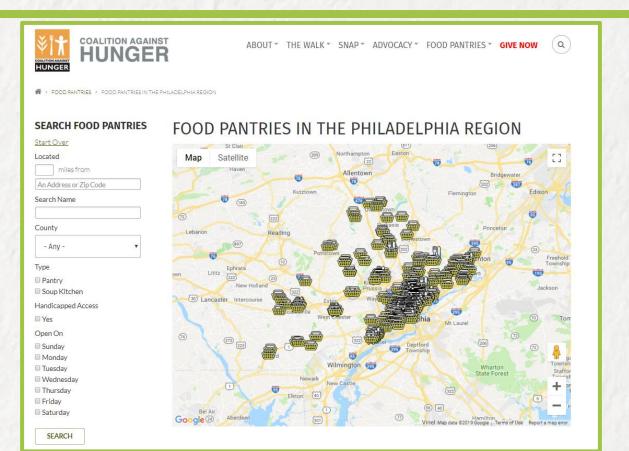
Policy Center



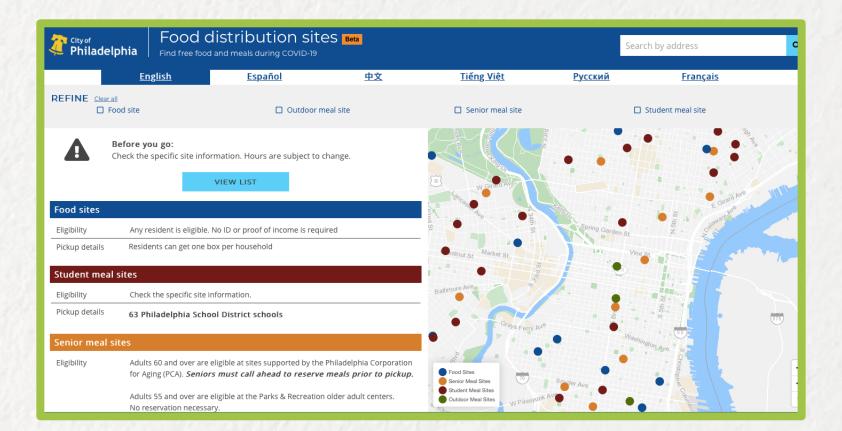
Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens



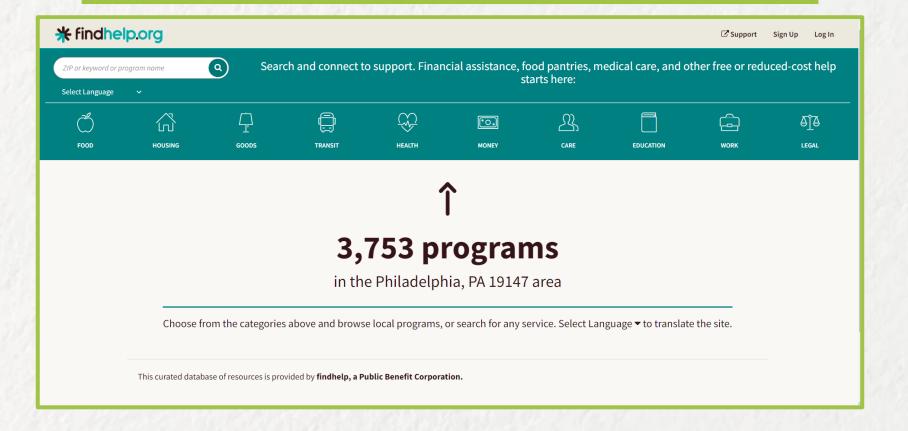
www.hungercoalition.org/food-pantries



www.phila.gov/food



www.findhelp.org



SNAP (Food Stamp) Enrollment



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Federally funded, state administered nutrition program
- Deposits money monthly onto an ACCESS card, which is similar to a debit card
- Provides people with money to purchase food items at grocery stores, participating farmer's markets, and participating corner stores

Benefit range for a single person = \$23-\$281*



SNAP Directly Responds to Hunger





- Directly helps those in need
- Covers basic food & nutrition
- Encourages dignity
- Lessens stress of "treat or eat" decisions
- Helps almost 1.9 million PA residents to put food on the table
- Helps the economy, retailers, farmers, etc.
- Many people have misconceptions and do not realize they are eligible

SNAP is Not a Capped Program!

- There is no limit to how many people can receive SNAP benefits.
- SNAP is considered an "entitlement" program, which means that anyone who meets all the eligibility criteria can and should apply for benefits.
- 14% of residents in PA (1 in 7) received SNAP benefits in 2021







Who is Eligible for SNAP?

Almost anyone with low income

- Individuals
- Families with children
- Seniors and people with disabilities
- Unemployed, underemployed, and lowwage individuals
- Some college students (more with COVID rules!)
- · Certain non-citizens



When Determining Eligibility...



SNAP benefits are determined through a number of factors:

- Household Size
- Gross Income (before taxes)
- Allowable Deductions
- Special Groups:
 - Seniors & Individuals with disabilities (ESAP)
 - College students
 - Immigrants

Household Size

Basic definition—People who live together and buy and prepare meals together

- Spouses
- Families with children
- Intergenerational homes

Other Definitions

- A person living with others who buys food and prepares meals separately (ex. roommates)
- A person living alone (single individual)



Mandatory Household Members



Must apply together as one household:

- Spouses
- Children under 22 years old that live with parents/guardians
 - · Includes biological, adopted, and stepchildren
- Others under 18 years old living under "parental supervision"
 - Includes cousins, nieces, nephews, etc.





SNAP Income Guidelines Vary by Household Size



(Oct. 1, 2022 – Sept. 30, 2023)	
Number of Household	Household Income
Members	(<u>All Household Types</u>) 200% Poverty
Wellibers	
1	\$2,266
2	\$3,052
3	\$3,840
4	\$4,626
5	\$5,412
6	\$6,200

What Income "Counts"?



Earned Income

- Wages
- Self-employment
- Rental Income
- AmeriCorps VISTA Income (if not receiving SNAP prior to service)



Unearned Income

- · Retirement Benefits
- Social Security/Disability
- Pensions and Retirement Plans
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- VA Disability Benefits

Exempt Income

- Tax refund (including stimulus payments)
- Educational Assistance (grants, scholarships)
- Work Study income
- Income in kind (e.g., free rent in exchange for odd jobs)
- "Vendor" payments meaning someone else pays a bill (for instance, a parent helps with rent)

Special Groups



Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities



College Students



Immigrant Families

College Students

Always Eligible

- Caring for a child under age 6
- Caring for a child under age 12 if the student is a single parent in college full time
- Working 20 hours a week or more
- Receiving work study income
- Self-employed (this includes Uber/Lyft/TaskRabbit) and making the same amount as someone working 20 hours a week at the federal minimum wage (currently \$145 per week)
- "Unfit for work" (that is, have a medical barrier to employment)
- Receive TANF/cash assistance benefits
- Under age 18 or over age 50
- Enrolled less than half time
- Qualified for one of a few other small exceptions

College Students in PA

Eligible in PA

Community College students

Eligible Due to COVID-19*

- Students who are work study eligible, even if not in a work study position
- Students with an Expected Family Contribution of \$0

*The COVID-19 public health emergency is ending May 11^{th}

- COVID-19 eligibility exceptions will end 30 days after
- If you have SNAP prior to this ending, you may be able to keep SNAP until your annual recertification



How to Apply for SNAP

Online

https://www.compass.state.pa.us

In Person

County Assistance Office (CAO)

Through a Community Partner



SNAP Hotline*



Screen for Eligibility



Apply Over the Phone



Case Management



Open Mon-Thurs 9-5, Fri 9-4 215-430-0556

SNAP Application Process

Complete application

Submit verification documents

Complete interview

Return 6-month Semi-Annual Reporting Form (SAR) on time

Complete 1 year recertification on time

SNAP Benefit Amounts



SNAP adds up your earned and unearned income, then applies the deductions to get your "net income"

The SNAP benefit you are given is the difference between 30% of your net income and the maximum benefit

The more expenses you report, the higher your benefit may be!

Maximum SNAP benefits		
(October 1, 2022- September 30, 2023)		
3eptember 30, 2023)		
Household	Maximum	
Size	Benefit	
1	\$281	
2	\$516	
3	\$740	
4	\$939	
5	\$1,116	
6	\$1,339	
Each added person	\$211	

Extra Benefits of SNAP



Art Reach

Visit local museums, theatres, and more for just \$2 admission for you and up to three guests https://cutt.ly/art-reach





Farmer's Markets

Get \$2 of Philly Food Buck coupons for every \$5 you spend with SNAP at participating markets https://cutt.ly/food-bucks



Extra Benefits of SNAP



Amazon Prime

Get a discounted membership to Amazon Prime for just \$5.99/month https://cutt.ly/a-prime

Indego Bikes

Get unlimited 1 hour bike trips for just \$5/ month, or for \$48/year https://cutt.ly/indego



Advocacy

- http://www.hungercoalition.org/
- Sign up to receive our weekly
 <u>Coalition Community Update</u> and upto-date <u>Advocacy Alerts</u>
- Reach out to Congress



