

FOOD STAMPS

SNAP

Program Description

Food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), began in the United States in the late 1930's to help people buy and eat nutritious food. In 1971, the Food Stamp Program became a nationwide entitlement program. That means that as long as you meet the rules for SNAP, you have a legal right to get them. Eligibility for SNAP benefits depends on the number of people in your household and how much income you have. To get SNAP benefits, households must meet certain tests, including resource (assets) and income tests.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the state of Massachusetts and fall into one of two groups:

- (1) Those with a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$2,001.
- (2) Those with a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$3,001 who shares their household with a person or persons age 60 and over, or with a person with a disability (a child, your spouse, a parent, or yourself).

For either group, you must also have an annual household income of less than \$21,660 if one person lives in the household; \$29,140 if two people live in the household.