

Do I qualify for Basic Food Benefits?

Household Size	Monthly Gross Income Limit (200% FPL)
1	\$2,127
2	\$2,873
3	\$3,620
4	\$4,367
5	\$5,113

How much can I receive?

Household Size	Maximum Potential Benefit
1	\$204
2	\$374
3	\$535
4	\$680
5	\$807

***Maximum Amount plus 15% increase offered during COVID-19 Response Period**

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A U.S. CITIZEN TO GET FOOD BENEFITS

Immigrants who meet specific program rules under the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Program may be eligible for Food Benefits. Undocumented Immigrants, tourists, and other non-immigrants are not eligible for Food Benefits.

Basic Food for Students *Exemptions in place for students during COVID-19 Response Period

- Must be 18-49, physically able to work and enrolled in an institution of higher education ½ time or more
*6+ credits for most schools
- ESL, High School Completion or GED courses, are not considered higher education.
- You are NOT considered a student if you graduate, are suspended, expelled, drop out, or do not intend to register for the next term.
- Students must meet at least ONE of the following conditions:
 - ✦ Have paid employment and work an average of 20hrs/week.
 - ✦ Participate in a state or federal work study or BFET program
 - ✦ Be responsible for more than half the care of a dependent person who is 5 or younger
 - ✦ Be responsible for more than half the care of a dependent age 6-11
*See DSHS for details & exceptions
 - ✦ Be a single parent responsible for a child age 11 or younger
 - ✦ Have responsibility of a child 11 or younger, and the child's parents or your spouse do not live in the home

NOTE: Your status as student begins the first day of the school term and continues through vacations.



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Basic Food EBT/SNAP



Information

Whatcom County

**Eligibility & Application
Guide**

**During COVID-19
Office Closures**



1111 Cornwall Ave.

Bellingham, WA 98225

(360) 734-5121 ext.246

Updated February 2021

How to Apply for Basic Food Benefits

1) Complete an application in one of the following ways:

By phone with Opportunity Council:
360-734-5121 (M-F 9am-4:30pm)

Online: washingtonconnection.org

Call DSHS customer service line:
1-877-501-2233 (M-F 8am-3pm)

2) Complete an interview with DSHS

Over the Phone

1-877-501-2233 Mon-Fri 8am-3pm

NOTE: DSHS has decreased in-person services due to COVID-19

The only in-person services available at this time are:

- Pick up an EBT card, when mailing card is not an option
- Emergency support services, when mailing those services is not an option

Updates available at www.dshs.wa.gov

**Contact Opportunity Council's
Community Resource Center for more
information.**

**Office is currently closed, but phones are
answered Monday through Friday
9am-4:30pm**

360-734-5121 x0

3) Provide documentation

- Use DSHS drop-box: 4101 Meridian St.
- Mail: PO Box 11699, Tacoma WA 98411
- Fax: 1-888-338-7410
- Email: Call for access 1-877-501-2233

***Do NOT send originals**

Proof of Identity

- ___ Driver's License or State ID
- ___ Work or School ID Card
- ___ Health ID Card
- ___ Birth Certificate
- ___ US Passport

Citizenship or Alien Status

- ___ Social Security numbers for all applying members of household
- ___ Documentation Status Letter

Earned Income

- ___ Pay stubs (past 3-6mo.)
- ___ Employer Statement
- ___ Income Tax Forms
- ___ Self-employment Bookkeeping records (for 12mo)

Un-earned Income

- ___ Social Security Award Letter
- ___ Child Support Agreement
- ___ Unemployment Stubs
- ___ Bank Statement with deposits
- ___ Income Tax Forms

Residency & Expenses

- ___ Lease/Mortgage Agreement
- ___ Statement of Shared Living Arrangement
- ___ Utility Bills
- ___ Medical Expenses (Seniors/Disabled Only)

4) Receive EBT Card (Electronic Benefits Transfer)

Card will be mailed to you, unless you do not have a mailing address, then you may pick-up card at DSHS office (4101 Meridian St.)

Every month food benefits are added to your card. Date will be determined at interview.

EBT Card works similarly a debit card, and benefits can be used to purchase food at most grocery stores and Farmers' Markets.

EBT Cards may now be used to purchase groceries for delivery online through Amazon & Walmart.

5) Receive other benefits

Basic Food Enrollment may also qualify you for these programs:

- ✦ Free & Reduced School Lunch
 - ✦ Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)
- ✦ Head-Start & Early Head-Start
- ✦ WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)
- ✦ Free Assurance wireless phone
- ✦ Reduced Fare Internet (Lifelinesupport.org)
- ✦ Energy Assistance
- ✦ Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET)
- ✦ Fresh Bucks at participating locations matches your EBT benefits up to \$10/day. whatcomabc.org/fresh-bucks