Fast Facts about SNAP/Food Stamps

FOR CITIZENS/GENERAL PUBLIC

Applying for food stamps is beneficial for your family and children, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, food stamps are available as an economic bridge to help during difficult times.

Food stamps help keep people off welfare and purchase groceries. SNAP/food stamps is known as a form of “work support,” meaning that the nutrition program is used by people looking for a job, or by those currently employed but not making enough to make ends meet. It is different than cash assistance.

Food stamps helps those who are in need, whether due to a job loss, health issue, minimum-wage job or misfortune in life. About 1 in 10 Coloradans use food stamps, including hard-working families, children, seniors, veterans and those who are disabled.

SNAP is an entitlement program like Social Security and Medicaid. Everyone who applies and is determined to be eligible will get SNAP/food stamp benefits. Granting one individual benefits will not take away from others who are eligible.

FOR IMMIGRANTS

Undocumented immigrants have never been eligible for food stamps, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Documented immigrants can only get SNAP/food stamps if they’ve lived in the United States for at least five years (with exceptions for refugees, asylees, and children).

Children of undocumented immigrants can receive food stamp benefits, if they are citizens or legal permanent residents.

Personal information provided during the SNAP/food stamp application process remains confidential. The food stamp office, known as the Department of Human Services, will not report immigration information to ICE or USCIS (unless you show a final order of removal), but they do check with ICE/USCIS regarding the immigration documents provided by applicants. If someone is not documented, they won’t be asked for their immigration documents. Other members of their household can still apply and may be eligible.

Receiving food stamp benefits does not hurt a legal immigrant’s chance of becoming a U.S. citizen.

If you have questions about SNAP/food stamps or want to be connected to other food resources, call the statewide, bilingual food resource hotline at (855) 855-4626. All calls are kept confidential.