



SNAP Restaurant Meals Program

For the Homeless, Older Adults and Disabled



The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) has regulations that allow homeless households and some older adults and disabled households to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to buy prepared restaurant meals.

RECIPIENT BENEFITS

Homeless households and some older and disabled households can use their SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to purchase meals at approved restaurants.

You will continue to receive monthly benefits. This program will not affect your benefits in any way, other than providing an additional way of utilizing benefits.

ELIGIBILITY

This program is available to you if your SNAP household meets one or more of the following criteria:

- **Older Adult:** the participant household must have only members who are age 60 or older, or an older individual and his or her spouse.
- **Disabled:** the participant household must have only members who are designated disabled by a government entity, or a disabled individual and his or her spouse.
- **Homeless:** the participant household must lack a fixed and regular nighttime residence or be living in a shelter, halfway house, or a place not designed for sleeping.

PROCESS

Various restaurants have been approved by the Food and Nutrition Service (USDA) to participate in the Restaurant Meals Program. A full list can be found on the DHS website*

Participating restaurants will have signage that states "Participating Restaurant: SNAP Restaurant Meals Program" with the "Fork & Knife" logo displayed on the door or window. You will be able to use your EBT card, which will be run through a Point of Sale device, similar to use of EBT at a grocery store.

**For more information and a list of participating restaurants, visit the [Online Purchasing & Restaurant Meals Program](#) page on the DHS website (www.dhs.ri.gov) or call the Call Center: 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347)*

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program?
The Restaurant Meals Program allows homeless, older adults (age 60 or over) and disabled Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households to use their SNAP benefits to purchase prepared meals using their SNAP Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) card at participating restaurants.
2. How can I find out if I am eligible for the Restaurant Meals Program?
You may be eligible if you are an Older Adult, Disabled or Homeless. Contact the DHS Call Center at 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347).
3. Do I have to apply for the Restaurant Meals Program separately?
No, if you are an eligible SNAP recipient and meet the specific requirements mentioned above, an additional application is not required.
4. How do I find out if a restaurant is participating in the program?
Participating restaurants will have signage that states “Participating Restaurant: SNAP Restaurant Meals Program” with the “Fork & Knife” logo displayed on the door or window. For a list of restaurants, visit the DHS website (www.dhs.ri.gov) for a list of participating restaurants.
5. Do I have to show an identification card aside from my EBT card to purchase a meal?
No, an identification card is not required. All you need is your EBT card and authorized PIN (personal identification number) to purchase a meal.
6. After purchasing a meal, do I get a sales receipt showing my SNAP benefits balance?
Yes, your sales receipt will show the cost of your meal and your SNAP (Food Stamp) benefit balance.
7. Will I be charged a service gratuity or sales tax if I purchase a meal with my SNAP EBT Card?
No, the participating restaurant is not allowed to charge a service gratuity or sales tax under the Restaurant Meals Program.
8. If my EBT SNAP benefit is not enough to purchase a meal, can I use the EBT cash benefit to cover the difference for payment?
Yes, you must inform the cashier that you will use a mixed transaction (EBT SNAP and RI Works EBT cash combined). Before you buy a meal, to check the balance of your EBT SNAP account, you can check your last receipt, call the toll-free EBT Customer Service Center number (1-888-979-9939), or visit www.ebtedge.com . You may also use cash or a credit card to pay for the balance. NOTE: Please be aware of your card balance before ordering.
9. What do I do if my EBT SNAP transaction is denied by a participating restaurant?
You must call DHS or call the EBT Customer Service Center Number (1-888-979-9939).
10. Am I able to use my EBT card at other restaurants outside the state of Rhode Island?
No, this program is currently only available for Rhode Island SNAP benefit recipients and at the participating restaurants in Rhode Island.

Need more information about the Restaurant Meals Program?

Call 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347)