



SNAP Restaurant Meals Program

For the Homeless, Elderly, and Disabled

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services has regulations that allow homeless households and some elderly and disabled households to use SNAP benefits to buy prepared restaurant meals.

CLIENT BENEFITS

Homeless households and some elderly 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 of the following criteria:

- Homeless: the household must lack a fixed and regular nighttime residence or be living in a shelter, halfway house, or a place not designed for sleeping. This includes those who are temporarily staying in the home of another person (90 days or less).
- Elderly: the household must have only members who are 60 or older, or an elderly individual and his or her spouse.
- Disabled: the household must have only members who are designated disabled by a government entity, or a disabled individual and his or her spouse.
- Elderly or Disabled: the household must have only members who are age 60 or older or designated as disabled by a government entity, or an elderly or disabled individual and his or her spouse.

PROCESS

Several Subway Restaurants and the Federal Hill Pizza restaurant have been approved by the Food and Nutrition Service (USDA) to participate in the Restaurant Meals 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. 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 Restaurant Meals Program page on the DHS website at <http://www.dhs.ri.gov/Programs/SNAPFoodAccessProject.php> or call the DHS Call Center at 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347)



**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**



1. What is the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program?

The Restaurant Meals Program allows homeless, elderly (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 Elderly, Disabled or Homeless. Contact **1-866-306-0270** or contact your local Department of Human Services (RI DHS) office.

3. Do I have to apply for the Restaurant Meals Program separately?

No, if you are an eligible SNAP client 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, call **1-866-306-0270** or visit the www.eatbettertoday.com website. You may also visit the Rhode Island Department of Human Services website for a list of participating restaurants at www.dhs.ri.gov.

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.

9. What do I do if my EBT SNAP transaction is denied by a participating restaurant?

You must call your SNAP Eligibility Worker 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 ten (10) Rhode Island Participating Restaurants.

Need more information about the Restaurant Meals Program?

Call 1-866-306-0270 or visit www.eatbettertoday.com