



WHO IS A SNAP HOUSEHOLD?

“SNAP Household”: Do you buy and prepare meals together?



Who is a SNAP Household?

When applying for SNAP, the SNAP Hotline Counselor or the County Assistance Office (CAO) worker will need to know who is in the SNAP household. The SNAP Household is different than your regular household. It is not the number of people you live with, it is the number of people that buy food and prepare meals together. The SNAP household may live in a house, apartment, or institutional setting (such as a group living arrangement or women’s shelter) or may be homeless.

Examples of SNAP Households:

A person living alone who buys food and prepares meals.

- Example– senior citizen, single adult without dependents
- Homeless individuals.

A person living with others who buys food and prepares meals separately.

- Example– individuals with roommates, people living in a boarding house.

A group of people living together who buy food and prepare meals together.

- Example: families, relatives, married couples

The most important question to ask is:

Do you buy food and prepare meals together? If the answer to this question is ‘yes’, then the individuals must apply for SNAP together.

If you have questions about SNAP Households call the SNAP Hotline:

215-430-0556

Turn page over for more information about SNAP Households→



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More on SNAP Households



Some people that are living together must apply together, even if they buy food and prepare meals separately. These people are called “mandatory household members” and must apply for SNAP as one household.



Who is a Mandatory Household Member?

- Spouses, including common law marriages
- Children age 21 or younger, including biological, stepchildren, and adopted children.
- Child’s child, and child’s spouse age 21 or younger
- Children under age 18 that are under parental control of non-parent adult household member
- Boarder who pays less than “reasonable monthly payment “ for rent.

Some people are exempt from the mandatory household member rule.

Elderly or Disabled Person Exception

An elderly person, age 60 or older, or a person with a disability can be a separate household even if they live with others and buy food and share meals if:

- They cannot buy food and prepare meals due to a permanent disability
- Their income (excluding spouse) is less than 165% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

Stepchild and Foster Child Exceptions

- A stepparent and stepchild can be separate SNAP households if the natural parent dies or the marriage ends in divorce and the former stepparent does not have parental control of the stepchild.
- A foster child is not a mandatory household member.

Shared Custody: Shared custody requires the child to be included in the applicant household regardless of where the child or children eat the majority of meals in any given month.