



THE RHODE ISLAND SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) PREPARED MEALS “FOOD ACCESS PILOT PROJECT”

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services was federally approved by the Food and Nutrition Services (USDA) to conduct a pilot program that allows some elderly, homeless and disabled households to use their SNAP benefits to purchase hot prepared meals at participating restaurants. This program was introduced to the Providence area in August 2011.

CLIENT BENEFITS

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

This program will not affect your benefits in any way, other than providing an additional way of using your SNAP benefits. Additional SNAP benefits are not being provided under this program, an eligible SNAP recipient must use their current SNAP benefits for the prepared meals purchase.

ELIGIBILITY

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

- Elderly**: the participant household must have only members who are 60 or older or an elderly 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.
- 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.

PROCESS

Currently five (5) Subway Restaurants in the Providence area have been approved by the Food and Nutrition Service (USDA) to participate in the Food Access Prepared Meals Pilot Program.

Participating restaurants will have signage displaying the “Fork & Knife” logo on the merchant door or window and/or signage that states “Participating Restaurant: Food Access Project”

Your EBT card will be swiped through a Point of Sale (POS) device to complete the transaction. The five (5) federally authorized Rhode Island *Subway* locations are:

Providence:

309 Elmwood Ave., 719 Westminster St., 255 Weybosset St., 2 Kennedy Plaza

Cranston: 962 Cranston St.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is the SNAP Food Access Project?

The Food Access Pilot Program allows eligible elderly (age 60 or over) homeless and disabled Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and their spouse to use their SNAP benefits to purchase prepared meals using their SNAP Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) card at approved participating restaurants.

2. How can I find out if I am eligible for this Program?

You may be eligible if you are elderly, disabled or homeless. New applicants will be notified upon approval of the SNAP program. Currently active SNAP recipients will be notified in their SNAP benefit quarterly statement. If you are not a current SNAP participant and wish to apply, please visit the RI DHS website at www.foodstamps.ri.gov or visit your local Rhode Island Department of Human Services to apply. For additional assistance, please contact the SNAP Outreach Line at 1-866-306-0270

3. Do I have to apply for the Food Access Pilot Program separately?

No, if you are an active SNAP client, and you meet the specific requirements as mentioned in question #2, no additional action is necessary just visit one of the five (5) pilot participating restaurants. If you are not an active SNAP client, you must apply for the program and be determined eligible.

4. How do I find out if a restaurant is participating in the program?

Participating restaurants will display the fork and knife SNAP Food Access Project logo (see other side, top left of page) on the front window or door. For a list of restaurants, please see other side of this informational sheet. You may also call 1-401-874-5145, visit www.eatbettertoday.com or visit the Rhode Island Department of Human Services website www.dhs.ri.gov for additional information.

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. To obtain your SNAP or RI Works benefit balance, at any time, 24/7 you may visit www.ebtedge.com. Upon submission of your EBT card number and PIN your benefit balance and recent purchases are displayed.

7. Will I be charged a service gratuity or sales tax if I purchase a meal?

No, the participating restaurant is not allowed to charge a service gratuity or sales tax under the Food Access 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 be using 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 five (5) Rhode Island Participating Restaurants.

Need more information about the SNAP Food Access Program?

Call 401-874-5145 or visit www.eatbettertoday.com

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