

# Arizona Food Assistance Programs

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## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Formally known as the Food Stamp Program, SNAP provides food benefits, access to a healthy diet, and education on food preparation and nutrition to low-income households. Recipients spend their benefits (provided on an electronic card that is used like an ATM card) to buy eligible food in authorized retail food stores.

### Eligibility

- You have a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$2,001, or
- You have a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$3,001 and share your household with one of the following:
  - a person or persons aged 60 and over, or
  - a person with a disability (a child, your spouse, a parent, or yourself)
- Have a total household income that does not exceed [130% of the Federal Poverty Level](#)
- Able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) will be limited to 3 months of assistance during a 3-year period of Nutrition Assistance unless they are exempt, working, or participating in the SNAP Employment and Training program.
- Screen for eligibility with the [Individual or Family Benefit Quick Screener](#)
- If you do not qualify for Nutrition Assistance benefits, or need help with food during the application process, please contact [The Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\)](#). Persons receiving Nutrition Assistance automatically qualify for TEFAP.

### How to Apply

- Apply without assistance online through [Health-e-Arizona Plus](#)
  - Or download the Application for Benefits with [KidsCare Application Addendum](#)
  - Call (855) 432-7587 to request a paper application to be mailed to you. After receiving and completing the application, ~~return it in~~ return it by mail or fax.
- For assistance with applying, visit the Cover Arizona website at <http://coveraz.org> to find and schedule an appointment with a local application assister.

### Information Needed for Eligibility

- Proof of citizenship and identity for everyone who is applying for benefits.
- ~~Alien Registration Cards, if~~ there are non-U.S. citizens applying for benefits in your household, [Alien Registration Cards](#).
- Social Security numbers for everyone, or proof that a Social Security number has been applied for.
- Proof of relationship, birth certificates may be used.
- Name, address, and daytime phone number of landlord or neighbor.
- A statement verifying your address and the names of everyone living with you. The statement must be made by a non-relative who doesn't live with you. It must be signed, dated, and include that person's address and telephone number.
- Proof of ALL money your household received from any source last month and this month.
- Proof that your employment ended, and last date paid.
- Bank or credit union (savings or checking) complete statement for the most recent month.
- Proof of savings bonds, securities, retirement plans, and life insurance.

- Proof of rent/mortgage
- Proof of utility bills (electric, water, gas, etc.) for the most recent month and a statement about how you heat or cool your home.
- Proof of childcare expenses for the most recent month. Provide a statement if you take your child to or from the provider's location.
- Proof of medical expenses for those applying for benefits who are age 60 or older or receive disability benefits when the total amount for the household is more than \$35.00.
- Proof of legal obligation and payments of court ordered child support paid this month and last month.

### **After the Application**

- You may need to complete an eligibility interview by phone. It is strongly recommended that you have income information, ID, Social Security numbers, and Citizenship verification at the interview. During your interview, your information will be reviewed to see if you qualify for the program.
- At the end of your interview, you will be notified if any additional information is needed to decide your case. You will also receive a letter asking for this information.

### **After I Am Approved**

- You are required to report any changes that may affect your Nutrition Assistance eligibility. Your approval letter will identify whether you qualify for Standard or Simplified reporting.
- Nutrition Assistance requires a renewal to determine if there have been any changes to your ~~current status~~status. Renewal dates can range from three months to two years from the initial application date. You will be mailed a letter informing you that it is time to renew your benefits. It is important to report a change in your mailing address to ensure you receive notification regarding your renewal.
- The [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Career Advancement Network](#) (SNAP CAN) is Arizona's community-based employment and training program that provides employment readiness services to eligible Nutrition Assistance recipients. Services are provided through SNAP CAN Partners of DES who are dedicated to connecting program participants to the tools and resources they need to overcome barriers and obtain employment.

### **For Nutrition Assistance Frequently Asked Questions Please Visit the [DES Website](#)**

- When do changes need to be reported?
  - You must report the change by the 10th calendar day of the month following the month the change occurred.
- What changes need to be reported?
  - Address change
  - Changes in household members
  - Childcare
  - Housing expense
  - Income
  - Resources
  - Medical expenses
    - Only required for disabled or elderly members



## Double Up Food Bucks

Spend \$1 on SNAP eligible food items with your SNAP Quest/Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card and get \$1 to spend on Arizona-grown fruits and vegetables with Double Up Food Bucks, up to \$20 per day.

### How to Apply

- There is no application process for Double Up Food Bucks. To participate, you can attend a farmers market or go to participating grocery and corner stores. For farmers markets, you can head to the information booth to acquire additional information. At participating grocery and corner stores, all you need to do is bring your SNAP Quest/EBT card and let the staff member know you would like to Double Up today.
  - Participating locations can be found by visiting the [Double Up Food Bucks](#) website.
- To qualify for Double Up Food Bucks, one must qualify for the SNAP.

## Restaurant Meals Program

Allows certain participants to use their EBT QUEST card to purchase prepared meals from participating restaurants. This may also include the deli section of a participating grocery store. This program is available to a Nutrition Assistance (NA) household if every person in the household meets one or more of the following conditions:

- Disabled - the person is receiving Social Security benefits; Railroad Retirement benefits Annuities; or other disability payments.
- Elderly - the person is 60 years of age or older.
- Homeless - the person does not have a fixed or regular nighttime residence.

### Do all restaurants participate in the Restaurant Meals Program?

No they do not, but participating restaurants are listed on the webpage and updated quarterly. It is recommended to look for signs that the restaurant accepts EBT.

## Arizona Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The Arizona Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrition education and breastfeeding support services, supplemental nutritious foods and referrals to health and social services. WIC serves pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women; infants; and children under the age of five.

Benefits are provided on an electronic card and used like a credit card to buy eligible food in authorized retail food stores.

### Eligibility

- Pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of five who are at nutritional risk.
- Annual household income at or below [185% of Federal Poverty Level](#)
  - A pregnant woman is considered two family members.

### How to Apply

- In-person option: Find a local WIC clinic at <https://clinicsearch.azbnp.gov/> or call the toll-free number at 1-800-252-5942 to be directed to your local WIC clinic.
- Self-service option: If you want to apply on your own, visit the WIC Portal to apply online at [myazwic.com](http://myazwic.com)
- For tribal members and individuals within tribal communities
  - In person option: Find a local WIC clinic at: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/wic-program/find-a-wic-clinic/> or call the toll-free number at 1-800-360-6150 to be directed to your local WIC clinic.
  - Self-service option: If you want to apply on your own, visit the WIC Portal to apply online at <https://itcawic.itcastars.net/apply>

### What to Bring to Your WIC Appointment

- Proof of identity for each family member applying
- Identification for adults (driver's license, photo ID)
- Child's identification (shot record, birth certificate, crib card, or hospital ID)
- Proof of income (30 days of recent paystubs, AHCCCS letter, SNAP letter)
- Proof of address (mail or bill, driver's license, mortgage/rent receipt)

## **WIC Farmers Markets Nutrition Program (FMNP)**

The Arizona WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program, or WIC FMNP for short – once a year, families participating in WIC can get \$30 per family member in farmers market coupons for fresh, locally grown produce.

FMNP coupons are available to obtain from authorized markets as soon as February 15th. The last day to obtain coupons each year is September 30th. Coupons are valid from February 15th (or the day they're issued) until November 15th of the same calendar year. FMNP coupons expire after November 15th.

Please take into consideration that many farmers markets operate on a weekly basis, and the dates the markets are open may not correspond exactly with the deadlines listed above. Additionally, some farmers markets are seasonal, and their dates of operation affect when customers can obtain the coupon benefits. A full list of authorized FMNP sites (including dates open, addresses and hours) can be found on the [Arizona Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#).

### **Eligibility**

- To participate in WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), a person must be a current WIC participant or on the waiting list to receive benefits from WIC.

### **How to Apply**

- Bring your eWIC card and mobile device to a participating farmers market or farm stand. To find your nearest participating farmers market or farm stand visit <https://www.azfmnp.org/find-a-market.html>

If you still have questions about obtaining the coupons, please visit the [Arizona Farmers Market Nutrition Program website](#) or call 833-836-8253 ext. 4.



## Senior Farmers Markets Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

**Vouchers** – Once a year, qualifying seniors may receive one \$50 SFMNP voucher booklet, which contains ten (10) \$5.00 vouchers. SFMNP vouchers can only be used at Authorized Farmers Markets and Farm Stands to purchase fresh, Arizona-grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs. The vouchers are valid until November 15th of the same year they were issued. The program is first come, first served.

**Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) box** – If available, qualifying seniors can receive up to three Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes instead of SFMNP vouchers. Each CSA box is valued at \$10 each of locally grown fruits and vegetables. SFMNP vouchers can be used only at Authorized Market(s).

At certain partnering locations, seniors may receive Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes in lieu of SFMNP vouchers. Each CSA box is valued at \$10-\$15 and consists of Arizona-grown fruits and vegetables. Participating seniors will receive the full \$50 in value of produce in 3 to 5 installments of CSAs.

The number of SFMNP vouchers or CSA boxes issuance may vary each year according to available funding.

### Eligibility

- Person must be at least 60 years of age.
- Households with an income less than [185% of the Federal Poverty Level](#) or must be participating in the Commodity Senior Food Program (CSFP).

### How to Apply

- Visit a participating farmers market or farm stand, go to the information booth, and ask for the Senior Self Declaration Form.
  - Visit <https://www.azfmnp.org/locations.html> to find a participating farmers market or farm stand.

### For Additional Help

- Email [info@azfmnp.org](mailto:info@azfmnp.org)
- Call [1-833-836-8253](tel:1-833-836-8253) (Interpreters available)
- Text FMNP to 77222 to subscribe to text message reminders.

## The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP provides both emergency food packages and congregate feeding sites (soup kitchens).

- Emergency Food Packages – Participants can receive a TEFAP package for their household at least once a month by visiting their local Distribution Site (food pantry). The food inside these packages is shelf-stable which means it does not require refrigeration. Items may include canned or dried fruits, vegetables, and legumes (beans), bottles juices, and nuts. Food packages are often supplemented with fresh produce, grains, pasta, bread, and meat-based protein.
- Soup Kitchens – A congregate meal that includes TEFAP foods is a nutritious, hot meal provided at least once a day to an eligible participant at a nutrition site, senior center, or other group setting. Congregate sites may also offer various health-related services such as transportation, health screening, social service referrals, legal assistance, physical and social activities, and volunteer opportunities.

### Eligibility

- Emergency Food Packages
  - People receiving SNAP benefits are automatically eligible.
  - Total gross income for the household cannot exceed [185% of the Federal Poverty Level](#).
  - View the [TEFAP Eligibility Chart](#) for more information.
- Soup Kitchen Meals
  - No formal eligibility, only need to arrive and state that you are in need.

### How to Apply

- Applications are usually completed at the Distribution site by speaking to a worker who puts a participant's information into a computer. The information is recorded as a requirement of the program and kept confidential.
- Documents to bring
  - Photo ID
  - If photo ID does not reflect current address, a document (utility bill, lease agreement, etc.) showing current address.
  - If experiencing homelessness, be sure to know the cross-streets or location where you stay at night.
- Application Process
  - Provide information including your name, address, phone number, date of birth, and household size (number of people living in your home with you).
  - Will be asked to confirm that you meet the current income eligibility, you will not sell, trade, barter, or exchange TEFAP food for service, and that you live in the geographic area served by the site.

### Locations

- <https://azgeo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/nearby/index.html?appid=accbf20ab85a42f194dbd279130fc563>

## Arizona Commodity Senior Food Program (CSFP)

The Commodity Senior Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of low-income persons who are at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with a monthly package of nutritious food at no cost.

### Eligibility

- Reside in Arizona
- Be at least 60 years old.
- Have a total household income that does not exceed [130% of the Federal Poverty Level](#)

### How to Apply

- Applications are usually completed at the Distribution Site by speaking to a worker who puts a participant's information into a computer. The information is recorded as a requirement of the program and kept confidential.
- Documents to bring
  - Photo ID
  - If photo ID does not reflect current address, a document (utility bill, lease agreement, etc.) showing current address.
  - If homebound, call your local Distribution Site for directions on alternative ways to apply for the program, and to inquire if home-delivery is offered.
- Application Process
  - Provide information including your name, address, phone number, date of birth, and household size (number of people living in your home with you).
  - Will also be asked to confirm that you meet the current income eligibility, you will not sell, trade, barter, or exchange CSFP food for services, and that you live in the geographic area served by the site.

### Participation

- Participation in this program is limited, therefore new applicants may be put on a wait list.
- Active participants are eligible to receive a CSFP package once a month during their certification period. The certification period is 12 months. Before the end of the 12 months, a participant can reapply.

### Locations

- <https://azgeo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/nearby/index.html?appid=accbf20ab85a42f194dbd279130fc563>

## **Congregate and Home Delivered Meals**

A congregate meal is a nutritious, hot meal provided at least once a day to an eligible participant at a nutrition site, senior center, or other group setting. Congregate meal programs provide older adults with positive social contacts with other seniors at the meal sites. Congregate sites may also offer a variety of health-related services such as transportation, health screening, social service referrals, legal assistance, physical and social activities, and volunteer opportunities.

The home-delivered meal program provides a nutritious meal to an eligible individual at their residence. Volunteers and paid staff deliver these meals and spend additional time with the individuals, helping to decrease their feelings of isolation. They also check on the individual's welfare and report any health or other problems noted during their visits.

For more information, contact your local Area Agency on Aging: <https://des.az.gov/services/older-adults/area-agency-on-aging-locations>

## Appendixes

### Appendix A – 130% of Federal Poverty Level

Number of People in Household	Annual Income
1	\$19,578
2	\$26,572
3	\$33,566
4	\$40,560
5	\$47,554
6	\$54,548
7	\$61,542
8	\$68,536
More than 8	For each additional person add \$6,994

**Appendix B – 185% of Federal Poverty Level**

<b>Number of People in Household</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>
1	\$27,861
2	\$37,814
3	\$47,767
4	\$57,720
5	\$67,673
6	\$77,626
7	\$87,579
8	\$97,532
More than 8	For each additional person add \$9,953