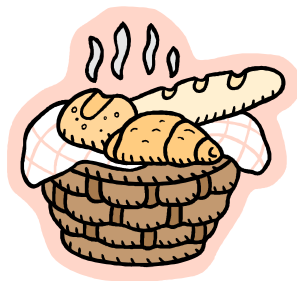




FOOD STAMPS



Prepared by
JACKSONVILLE AREA LEGAL AID, INC.
A UNITED WAY AGENCY

Revised 03/10

The information provided in this brochure is not a substitute for legal advice. The laws described here may change without notice.

WHAT ARE FOOD STAMPS?

Food Stamps help low-income persons buy healthy food. The amount of benefits is based on what the government thinks a family of a particular size must spend on food to prepare low cost, healthy meals. Benefits are paid by electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards rather than actual “stamps.”

Food Stamps cannot be used to buy nonfood items like medications, alcohol, tobacco, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper and pet food. Benefits cannot be used to buy hot food from the store deli or food to be eaten in the store.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE IF:

1. Your household has an income of 130% of the federal poverty level or less. Certain household expenses such as child support paid, some medical bills, dependent care and shelter may be deducted from your income in the food stamp budget. A “household” is a group of people who live together and buy food and cook meals together.

2. Your household's assets, such as bank accounts or property other than the family home, do not exceed \$2,000. However, if your household has a member who is age 60 or older or is disabled, you may have assets of up to \$3,000.
3. You provide proof of identity, live in Florida and are a US citizen or have qualified noncitizen status.
4. All participating household members must provide a Social Security number or make application for a Social Security number. Persons who are not applying do not have to give any Social Security number.
5. All household members must register for work unless they are exempt. Ask your caseworker what the work exemptions are. If you do not work and are not exempt, you will only receive 3 months of food stamps within a 3 year period.
6. You may be required to cooperate with Child Support Enforcement to establish your child's relationship with the other parent and seek child support payments from that parent.
7. People who receive Supplemental Social Security Income may be eligible for a special Food Stamp program called SUNCAP without any additional application or interview.

EXPEDITED FOOD STAMPS

If you have little or no income and assets, you may be entitled to Food Stamps within 7 days of the date of your application. You must provide proof of identity. Verification of all other eligibility requirements can be done after the stamps are issued but no later than the second issuance month.

WHO IS INELIGIBLE?

Persons convicted of drug trafficking, fleeing from a felony warrant, intentional violators of Food Stamp rules, noncitizens without a qualified status and some college or university students.

HOW DO I APPLY?

1. Online at www.myflorida.com/accessflorida OR
2. By contacting your local Florida Department of Children & Families office OR
3. By calling 1-866-762-2237.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF BENEFITS ARE DENIED OR REDUCED?

Contact our office right away. You must request a hearing to appeal the denial decision within **90 days** of the date of the notice denying your benefits. However, **if you are receiving Food Stamps** and you get a notice that your Food Stamps will be reduced or stopped, you must request a hearing within **10 days** of the day you receive the notice so that you can keep receiving Food Stamps until the hearing officer makes a decision on your case. You have the right to review the Food Stamp record on which the decision was made; you have a right to receive free copies of that record; you have the right to bring witnesses to the hearing to speak on your behalf. You have the right to be represented at the hearing.

WHERE TO APPLY FOR HELP

CLAY COUNTY

PO Box 1999
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-1999
(904) 284-8410
(Call first)

DUVAL COUNTY

(MAIN OFFICE)
126 W. Adams Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 356-8371
(Call for appointment)

NASSAU COUNTY

Served through:
126 W. Adams Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 356-8371, ext. 313

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

222 San Marco Ave.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 827-9921
Toll free: 1-877-827-9921

If you are a qualified individual with disability, you can request a reasonable accommodations/auxiliary aid at no charge to you by contacting the JALA ADA Coordinator at 904-353-1320 V/ TTY or 904-245-1121 Video Phone. The ADA coordinator has no information as to this event; please do not call the above numbers for event specific information.

**JACKSONVILLE AREA LEGAL AID
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NE FLORIDA AREA AGENCY on AGING
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UNITED WAY OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

