

Food Stamps

Supplemental food for individuals and families

What type of Aid is offered?

- Monthly funding transferred to a debit card that can only be used to pay for food at participating stores.

Special considerations for Immigrants and their Families

- Financial eligibility may depend on whether one or more immigrant household members have a sponsor.
 - Excluding children, through a process known as “deeming,” a sponsor’s income and/or resources may be added to the immigrant’s resources in determining financial eligibility for the Food Stamp program.
- The Food Stamp Program does not require reporting to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services except:
 - 1) When the person applying to receive benefits does so solely on his/her own behalf.
 - 2) When the food stamp-granting agency has knowledge that the person is not lawfully present.
- A parent who is ineligible for food stamps can apply for them on behalf of an eligible child.
- Household members who do not provide immigration status information are treated as “ineligible.”
 - The person’s withholding status information will not affect the eligibility of *other* household members.
- Nebraska also provides state-funded assistance to qualified immigrants ineligible for federal food stamps due to the 1996 federal welfare law (eligibility for this state-funded assistance may be affected by “deeming.”)

IMMIGRANT ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FOOD STAMP ASSISTANCE

Eligible Immigrants

- **“Qualified” immigrant children** under 18 years old.
- **“Qualified”** immigrants regardless of their date of entry due to a state funded supplemental program.
- **Seniors** who were born before Aug. 22, 1931, were lawfully residing in the U.S. on Aug. 22, 1996, and who are now “qualified” immigrants.
- **Veterans** and active duty military personnel, their spouses, un-remarried surviving spouses, and children, who are “qualified” immigrants.
- **“Qualified”** immigrants receiving disability benefits, regardless of their date of entry into the United States. Disability-related benefits include: Supplemental Security Income, Social Security disability, state disability or retirement pension, railroad retirement disability, veteran’s disability, disability-based Medicaid, or possibly General Assistance for certain persons with disabilities.
- **Refugee categories:** individuals granted status as a refugee, asylee, person granted withholding of removal/deportation, Amerasian immigrant, or Cuban/Haitian entrant. Eligibility continues even if the refugee becomes an “LPR.”

Eligible Immigrants (Continued)

- **“Victims of Trafficking”:** sex trafficking and the forced or fraudulent recruitment, harboring, transport, or provision of an individual for labor or services that subject the individual to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- **Lawful permanent residents (LPRs)** credited with 40 quarters of work history.
- **Certain Hmong or Highland Laotian tribe members** who are lawfully present in the U.S., and were members of these tribes during the Vietnam era; spouses, un-remarried widows/widowers, and children of these tribe members also are eligible.
- **A member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, or an American Indian born in Canada.**

Ineligible Immigrants

- **“Qualified”** immigrants who do not fit into one of the eligible categories above or at left.
- **“Not qualified”** immigrants other than Native Americans and Hmong or Laotian tribe members described as eligible.

KEY TERMS

1) “Qualified” Immigrants are: 1. Lawful permanent residents (LPRs); 2. Refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation/removal, conditional entry (in effect prior to Apr. 1, 1980), or paroled into the U.S. for at least one year; (3) Cuban/Haitian entrants; and (4) battered spouses and children with a pending or approved (a) self-petition for an immigrant visa, or (b) immigrant visa filed for a spouse or child by a U.S. citizen or LPR, or (c) application for cancellation of removal/suspension of deportation, whose need for benefits has a substantial connection to the battery or cruelty. A parent/child of such battered child/spouse is also “qualified.”

2) Immigrants ineligible for federal food stamps due to the 1996 welfare law: includes all persons now categorized as “qualified” immigrants, except abused spouses and certain Cuban/Haitian entrants.

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