

SNAP and the Public Charge

Did you know?

Did you know that applying for or receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) does **not** make you a public charge and will **not** be considered in a public charge determination?

Applying for or receiving SNAP will **not** affect your ability to:

- Remain in the United States,
- Get a Green Card/Permanent Legal Resident Status,
- Keep a Green Card/Permanent Legal Resident Status, or
- Become a U.S. Citizen.



Who can apply for SNAP?

Every household has the right to file an application for SNAP benefits. Households must normally apply for SNAP benefits for all persons who reside together and who purchase and prepare food together. In some instances, households may choose to exclude certain persons from the application process to avoid providing identifying information about these individuals. You can also apply for SNAP on behalf of the eligible immigrants or U.S. citizens in your family, even if you do not want to apply for benefits for yourself, without affecting your or their immigration status.

For example, if a parent is not eligible for SNAP because of their immigration status, they can still apply for their eligible children. The SNAP office is not allowed to ask for immigration documents for people who are not applying to receive benefits themselves.

How to apply for SNAP

1. Screen for eligibility and/or apply online through CommonHelp by clicking the following link: <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov>.
2. Apply for SNAP over the phone by contacting the Enterprise Customer Service Center at (855) 635-4370 (Monday – Friday from 7am – 6pm).
3. Apply for SNAP by submit an application manually. Fill out an "Application for Benefits" and return it to your local department of social services.