



How to Get the Most SNAP Benefits for Households with an Elderly and Disabled Member

Household members who are elderly (at least 60 years old) and disabled may qualify to receive SNAP benefits separately from the rest of the household. This often means that the entire household will receive a larger amount of SNAP benefits if the qualifying elderly and disabled household member receives SNAP separately. It is important for households with an elderly and disabled member to discuss this option with a caseworker at the county benefits office to ensure that the household receives the largest possible amount of SNAP benefits.

Disability Verification Requirements

An elderly and disabled household member qualifies to receive SNAP separately if this person's disability prevents him or her from buying and preparing food on his/her own. The county benefits office may require proof of this person's disability. If the person has been determined to be disabled by a government agency, that person should provide disability documents from the government agency. The person may also need to provide a statement from his/her doctor. The caseworker will provide more information about this if it is required.

How to Apply

The Benefit Bank will help prepare one SNAP application form for everyone in the household who buys and prepares food together. However, to ensure that the household gets the largest possible amount of SNAP benefits, it is important to ask the caseworker if the elderly and disabled household member qualifies to receive SNAP separately from the rest of the household. If so, the caseworker may request a separate SNAP application for each elderly and disabled person (and the person's spouse). These forms could be filled out at the benefits office and taken home for the elderly and disabled person to sign.

Elderly and disabled individuals can also set up their own account in The Benefit Bank to file taxes and apply for benefit programs. Using this account, they (or another person they authorize) will be able to complete a separate SNAP application through The Benefit Bank.

Authorized Representative

An authorized representative is someone chosen to act on another's behalf. SNAP applicants, including elderly and disabled individuals, can choose an authorized representative to manage their SNAP benefits and to communicate with the county benefits office for them. In this way, even if an elderly and disabled household member receives SNAP benefits separately, the head of household could still manage all of the SNAP benefits for the entire household. An elderly and disabled SNAP applicant can choose any person or household member to be his/her authorized representative by providing contact information for that person on the application form.