• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

Households CAN use SNAP benefits to buy:

- Foods for the household to eat, such as:
    - Breads and cereals
    - Fruits and vegetables
    - Meats, fish, and poultry
    - Dairy products.
    - Seeds and plants which produce food for the household to eat.

Households CANNOT use SNAP benefits to buy:

- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco
- Any nonfood items, such as:
    - Pet foods
    - Soaps, paper products
    - Household supplies
    - Vitamins and medicines
    - Food that will be eaten in the store
    - Hot foods

Additional Information:

"Junk Food" & Luxury Items

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) defines eligible food as any food or food product for home consumption and also includes seeds and plants which produce food for consumption by SNAP households. The Act precludes the following items from being purchased with SNAP benefits: alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, hot food and any food sold for on-premises consumption. Nonfood items such as pet foods, soaps, paper products, medicines and vitamins, household supplies, grooming items, and cosmetics, also are ineligible for purchase with SNAP benefits.

- Soft drinks, candy, cookies, snack crackers, and ice cream are food items and are therefore eligible items.
- Seafood, steak, and bakery cakes are also food items and are therefore eligible items.

ENERGY DRINKS:

When considering the eligibility of energy drinks, and other branded products, the primary determinant is the type of product label chosen by the manufacturer to conform to Food and Drug Administration Guidelines:

- Energy drinks that have a nutrition facts label are eligible foods
- Energy drinks that have a supplement facts label are classified by the FDA as supplements, and are therefore not eligible

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income: households without earned income	Gross Monthly Income: households with earned income	Gross Monthly Income: households with aged/disabled member
1	$1,695	$1,956	$2,608
2	$2,291	$2,644	$3,526
3	$2,887	$3,331	$4,442
4	$3,482	$4,108	$5,358
5	44,079	$4,707	$6,276

Household Size	Maximum Monthly Benefit
1	$298
2	$546
3	$785
4	$994
5	$1,184
6	$1,421