



## Food Supplement (SNAP) for Legal Immigrants

Food Supplement Program, called Food Stamps or SNAP, helps people pay for food. You get a card you can use to buy food at grocery stores.

### Can I get Food Stamps?

You need to have low income to get help. You must be in the United States legally. You do not have to live with children or be elderly or disabled.

### Children

All children who are qualified aliens and who have not turned 18 years old are eligible for Federal Food Supplement Program regardless of when they came to the United States. Once a child turns 18 years old, the child may continue to receive Federal Food Supplement benefits if he or she meets another eligibility criterion.

### Even if you are here legally, you may not be able to get Food Stamps if:

- You are a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) in your first 5 years with that legal status (and you are not a Refugee or Asylee);
- You have filed an application for permanent status and are still waiting for a decision;
- You have applied for Asylum status or another change in immigrant status with the federal immigration authorities and are waiting for a decision; or
- You have another less common legal status.

### If you are in one of the above groups, you may be able to get Food Stamps if you:

- got Food Stamps or had an application pending as of **January 1, 2012**;
- are a Lawful Permanent Resident under age 18;
- are elderly or disabled;
- have been a victim of domestic violence; or
- are waiting for work documentation; or
- have work documentation (EAD), but are unemployed.

For questions about **programs**, contact: [Maine Equal Justice \(MEJ\)](#)  
207-626-7058, extension 205.

For questions about **immigrant status** you can contact [Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project](#) (ILAP) at 207-780-1593 or toll-free at 1-800-497-8505