

## What is food assistance?

The Food Assistance Program – formerly the Food Stamp Program and known nationally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – helps eligible low-income Ohioans stretch their food budgets and buy healthy food. A household may consist of an individual or a group of individuals who live together and usually purchase and prepare their food together.

## What if I think my civil rights have been violated?

Stark County Job & Family Services and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) are public agencies that manage federal money. Laws do not allow discrimination in programs that use federal money.

Discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion or political beliefs is against the law. To file a complaint of discrimination with the ODJFS Bureau of Civil Rights, write to ODJFS, Bureau of Civil Rights, 30 E. Broad St., 37th floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215, or call (614) 644-2703 or toll-free 1-866-227-6353. If you are hearing impaired, call 1-866-221-6700. You also may fax a complaint to (614) 752-6381. To file a complaint of discrimination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), write to USDA Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD).

# Stark County Job & Family Services

## Children Services Division

300 Market Ave. North  
Canton, OH 44702  
**Child Abuse/Neglect Report Line:**  
(330)455-KIDS  
**Foster/Adopt:**  
(330)451-8789

## Child Support Division

122 Cleveland Ave. N.W.  
P.O. Box 21337  
Canton, OH 44701  
**Customer Service:** (330)451-8930  
**Payment information:**  
<http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocs>

## Human Services Division

221 3rd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702  
Cash, Food & Medical Assistance  
**Customer Service:** (330)451-8861  
**Customer Service e-mail:**  
[stark\\_csc@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:stark_csc@jfs.ohio.gov)  
**New Applications:** (330)451-8500  
**JOBS/Child Care:** (330)452-4661

## SCJFS Mailing Address & Executive Offices

221 3rd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702  
(330)452-4661



[www.starkjfs.org](http://www.starkjfs.org)



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# Food Assistance Program



## How do you apply for Food Assistance?

You may apply for food assistance online by going to <http://www.jfs.ohio.gov>, or by filling out the Request for Cash, Food and Medical Assistance (JFS 7200) form and submitting it to SCJFS at 221 Third Street S.E., Canton, Ohio 44702. Walk-in applicants will be interviewed on a first-come first-serve basis. Individuals can call 330-451-8500 for application

- A face-to-face interview is required and verifications will be requested.
- An Ohio Direction Card will be issued if benefits are approved.
- If you have questions about your case, after your case is open, call the SCJFS Customer Service Center: 330-451-8861.
- **If your Ohio Direction Card is lost, stolen, or fails to work properly, or if you need to change your PIN, call the state's customer service toll-free telephone number: call 866-386-3071.**



## What will I need to apply for food assistance?

You will need proof of the following:

- Social Security number or proof that you've applied for one
- Proof of income (pay stubs, tax records or child support notices)
- Identity (for example, a driver's license or state ID)
- Child care/dependent care costs
- Child support paid for children not living with you
- Housing and utility costs
- Any medical expenses for those with disabilities or for those over age 60 (including prescriptions)

*You may also be asked to provide other documents. If you need help getting any documents, be sure to tell your caseworker.*

## Do I qualify for food assistance benefits?

You may qualify for benefits if your household's gross monthly income is at or under 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Some households may qualify if they have incomes over the limit if someone in the household is elderly or disabled. If your household's income is under the limit, or if the limit does not apply, your benefit amount will be determined based on your household expenses - rent/mortgage costs, gas, electric, water, sewer, phone, medical expenses, and payments for child support and child care. Other factors in determining eligibility include the number of people in your household who purchase and prepare food together and, in some situations, resources such as cash, savings and stocks.

## What can I buy with food assistance benefits?

You can use your food assistance benefits to buy most food or food products.

However, the following items **may not** be purchased:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Tobacco
- Vitamins and/or medicines
- Hot food products that are prepared to be eaten immediately
- Non-food items (such as pet food, paper products, soaps and household supplies)
- You are not allowed to sell or trade food assistance benefits, buy non-food items, or use your food assistance benefits to buy food for someone who is not a member of your household.

***The Food Stamp Program helps you buy food you need for good nutrition & health.***

***If you use the benefits properly you can increase your purchasing power.***