

Do I qualify for Basic Food Benefits?

Household Size	Monthly Gross Income Limit (200% FPL)
1	\$2,010
2	\$2,707
3	\$3,403
4	\$4,100
5	\$4,797

How much can I receive?

Household Size	Maximum Potential Benefit
1	\$194
2	\$357
3	\$511
4	\$649
5	\$771

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A U.S. CITIZEN TO GET FOOD BENEFITS

Immigrants who meet specific program rules under the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Program may be eligible for Food Benefits. Undocumented Immigrants, tourists, and other non-immigrants are not eligible for Food Benefits.

Basic Food for Students

- Must be 18-49, physically able to work and enrolled in an institution of higher education ½ time or more
**6+ credits for most schools*
- ESL, High School Completion or GED courses, are not considered higher education.
- You are NOT considered a student if you graduate, are suspended, expelled, drop out, or do not intend to register for the next term.
- Students must meet at least ONE of the following conditions:
 - ✦ Have paid employment and work an average of 20hrs/week.
 - ✦ Participate in a state or federal work study or BFET program
 - ✦ Be responsible for more than half the care of a dependent person who is 5 or younger
 - ✦ Be responsible for more than half the care of a dependent age 6-11
**See DSHS for details & exceptions*
 - ✦ Be a single parent responsible for a child age 11 or younger
 - ✦ Have responsibility of a child 11 or younger, and the child's parents or your spouse do not live in the home

NOTE: *Your status as student begins the first day of the school term and continues through vacations.*



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Basic Food



Information

Whatcom County Eligibility & Application Guide



1111 Cornwall Ave.
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 734-5121 ext.246

Updated January 2018

How to Apply for Basic Food Benefits

1) Complete an application

-At DSHS or an Out-Station
-By phone: 360-734-5121 x246, or
-Online: washingtonconnection.org

2) Complete an interview in one of the following ways

**Walk-in, no appointment necessary*

At Opportunity Council DSHS Out-Station
1111 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham
Tues-Wed 8am-3:30pm & Thurs 8-11:30am

At DSHS Main Office
4101 Meridian St.
Mon-Fri 8am-2pm

Over the Phone
1-877-501-2233

At EWRRC DSHS Out-Station
8251 Kendall Rd., Maple Falls
Wed 9am-3:30pm

At WorkSource DSHS Out-Station
101 Prospect St., Bellingham
Tues 9am-3:30pm

At Lummi DSHS Out-Station
2592 Kwina Rd.
Mon, Wed, Fri 8am-4pm, closed for lunch

At Nooksack DSHS Out-Station
5061 Deming Rd
Fri 9am-3:30pm, non-Tribal members welcome

3) Provide documentation for all household members

Proof of Identity

___ Driver's License or State ID
___ Work or School ID Card
___ Health ID Card
___ Birth Certificate
___ US Passport

Citizenship or Alien Status

___ Social Security numbers for all applying members of household
___ Documentation Status Letter

Earned Income

___ Pay stubs (past 3-6mo.)
___ Employer Statement
___ Income Tax Forms
___ Self-employment Bookkeeping records (for 12mo)

Un-earned Income

___ Social Security Award Letter
___ Child Support Agreement
___ Unemployment Stubs
___ Bank Statement w/ deposits
___ Income Tax Forms

Residency & Expenses

___ Lease/Mortgage Agreement
___ Statement of Shared Living Arrangement
___ Utility Bills
___ Medical Expenses (Seniors/Disabled Only)

4) Receive EBT Card (Electronic Benefits Transfer)

Receive card in-person at DSHS or have it mailed to you. Every month food benefits are added to your card.

Benefits can be used to purchase food at most grocery stores and Farmers' Markets.

Benefits are available at 10am the day after approval.

5) Receive other benefits

Basic Food Enrollment may also qualify you for these programs:

- ✦ Free & Reduced School Lunch
- ✦ Head-Start & Early Head-Start
- ✦ WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)
- ✦ Free Assurance wireless phone
- ✦ Energy Assistance
- ✦ Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET)
- ✦ Fresh Bucks at participating locations matches your EBT benefits up to \$10 per location per day for purchase of additional fruits and veggies. More info: whatcomabc.org/fresh-bucks-2

Contact Opportunity Council's Community Resource Center for more information and other resources.

**Drop-in hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm
1111 Cornwall Ave. Bellingham, WA
(360) 734-5121**