

DSS

COMMUNITY PARTNER

INSIDER

<https://portal.ct.gov/dss>



June 2024



Summer EBT

Connecticut was one of the pioneers of the Summer-EBT (S-EBT) program to help lower food insecurity and increase access to healthy food during the summer. The Department of Social Services (DSS) partners with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to administer the S-EBT Program.

With the passing of [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#), S-EBT is now a permanent nationwide program starting in summer of 2024. S-EBT is an extra grocery benefit designed to support families pay for food in the summer.

Each child who qualifies for S-EBT will receive a one-time \$120 benefit. S-EBT cards will be mailed throughout the summer beginning early August 2024 with the last benefits going out September 15, 2024.

Read more about the program here: portal.ct.gov/sebt

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S-EBT has expanded eligibility criteria than traditional SNAP EBT benefits.

ABAWD Time Limits Returned 12/1/2023

Able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) aged 18 to 52 years old usually have time limits on SNAP.

Unless exempt, an ABAWD is allowed to receive SNAP benefits for only 3 full months during a 36-month period. This is known as the ABAWD time limit. The 3 full months do not need to be consecutive.



The ABAWD time limit does not apply if an individual meets the ABAWD work requirements, or are exempt from the ABAWD time limit.

ABAWD Time Limit Exemptions

A SNAP recipient is exempt from the ABAWD time limits if they're any of the following:

- ✓ Pregnant
- ✓ Younger than 18, or age 53 or older
- ✓ Exempt from the General Work Requirements Rules
- ✓ Age 24 or younger and in foster care when you were age 18-21
- ✓ Living with someone under 18 in their SNAP Household
- ✓ Experiencing Homelessness
- ✓ Served in the armed forces, regardless of discharge or release
- ✓ Experiencing physical or mental barriers to work (may need to be certified by medical professional)

If an individual lives in one of the 137 exempt CT Towns they do not need to meet ABAWD work requirements. [View exempt towns here.](#)

ABAWD Work Requirements

There are many ways to meet the ABAWD work requirements. Some options include:

[Click here for more information about ABAWD](#)

- 1 Working at least 80 hours per month, or an average of 20 hours per week.
- 2 Participating in a **work program** at least 80 hours a month.
- 3 Working and participating in a work program for a combination of at least 80 hours a month

Free Training for SNAP Household Members

Active SNAP household members who do not receive TFA may be eligible for free Employment and Training (E&T) programs.

E&T programs are short term skills-based training designed to help enter a new or more profitable career path upon program completion.

Various training programs are available in healthcare, manufacturing, and office/business fields at multiple locations throughout the state.

[Click here for a list of programs offered](#)



SNAP E&T Referrals



DSS has created an email box for Community Partners to make referrals or ask questions about the program
SNAPET@ct.gov

This e-mail should not be shared with clients as it is dedicated for communication between DSS and its partners.

SNAP E&T: Who is a Good Fit

Eligible SNAP recipients, not receiving TFA, who are able to work and who want to improve their household income are the perfect fit!

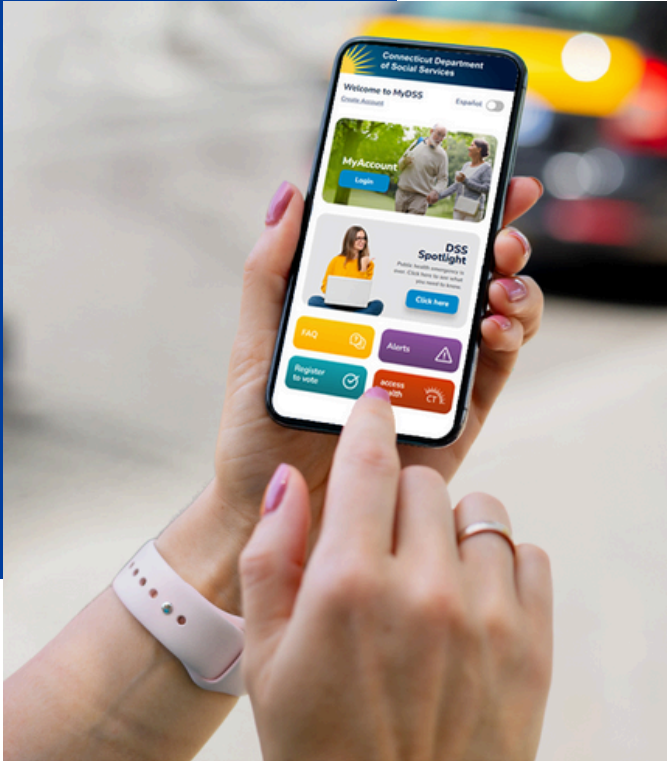
Able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) are able to tap into E&T programs to meet one of the work requirements to maintain eligibility.

SNAP eligible students who have a GED or high school diploma and are interested in pursuing a long-term educational goal to ultimately get into their chosen field.

SNAP eligible individuals may self-enroll at any SNAP E&T location but referrals from partners and eligibility staff directly to DSS E&T staff help facilitate a smooth enrollment process.

SNAP E&T develops skills, boosts confidence, aides in overcoming obstacles, and provides opportunities for growth.

[Read more about SNAP E&T here](#)



What is MyDSS

MyDSS is the mobile-friendly version of the ConneCT online portal, packed with extra features to make your life easier.

DSS households who already access ConneCT can use the same MyAccount login to access a range of self-service options.

MyDSS reduces phone calls to the Resource Center and minimizes the need for in-person visits to obtain benefit status or details. Additionally, DSS can receive information more rapidly with this system.

MyDSS Features

Assisting clients using a mobile device or tablet? MyDSS can help by providing a mobile friendly version of ConneCT to:

- Check real-time EBT card balances
- Push Notifications and alerts from DSS
- Complete SNAP Periodic Report Forms (PRF)
- Complete renewals for SNAP, cash or medical programs
- Upload pictures of verification documents
- Quickly open copies of notices
- View and download proof of benefits (budget sheets)
- Report changes in household situation or contact information

[Click here to visit
mydss.ct.gov](https://mydss.ct.gov)



Need Help?



[View MyDSS Video Guides](#)

For technical support using MyDSS or ConneCT call

1-877-874-1612

Monday - Friday
8:30 AM- 5:00 PM

SNAP Error Rate

The DSS quality control team measures how accurately eligibility staff determine a household's SNAP eligibility and benefit amount. The key objectives of the quality control process are:

- To measure the accuracy of SNAP eligibility and benefit determinations.
- To identify and correct errors in eligibility and benefit calculations.

SNAP cases undergo quality control reviews (QCR) to minimize errors by identifying their causes and implementing preventive measures for the future. Errors can stem from either the agency or the client.



Preventing SNAP Errors...

- ✓ ENSURES CONTINUOUS BENEFITS
- ✓ AVOIDS PROGRAM VIOLATIONS
- ✓ ELIMINATES REPAYMENT



Client Caused Errors

Client caused errors are errors that occur due to the household not reporting information on their case, reporting or providing incomplete information, withholding information, and/or providing incorrect information.

The top 3 error elements are:

- **Wages and salaries:** a fixed amount of money that is paid to an employee
- **Household composition:** determined by the people living together, their relationships to one another and if they buy and cook food together.
- **Shelter Deduction:** how much the household pays for rent or mortgage and their utilities.

For example, an individual may forget or not know to provide DSS with an update on their current income.



How to Report a Change

There are four ways clients can report a change.

- 1 Submit the change online using MyDSS or ConneCT
- 2 Mail the changes to:
DSS Scanning Center
PO Box 1320, Manchester, CT 06045-1320
- 3 Call the Benefit Center at 1-855-626-6632
- 4 Visit a local DSS Resource Center to drop off the changes.

[Learn more about reporting changes](#)

Best Practices for Preventing SNAP Errors

SNAP errors may lead to incorrect SNAP benefits being issued to the household. If incorrect benefits are given, the household might need to use funds meant for other expenses to cover the gap in their food budget. If a household receives more SNAP benefits than they should, they may have to pay back the benefits that were issued to them by incorrectly. To help prevent SNAP errors, it is important to report changes and updates in a timely manner. To find out more about reporting changes, visit: portal.ct.gov/snap/changes-you-need-to-report

The following changes must be reported:

- If the household's total monthly gross income is more than 130% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL). Gross income is all money from working and any other source before any money is taken out.
- If anyone in the home is subject to the ABAWD time-limits, works and/or has E&T program hours less than 80 hours in a month.
- If the household receives lottery or gambling winnings of at least \$4,250 in a single game.

Share your feedback and suggestions with us!

Community Partner Insider
Newsletter Feedback



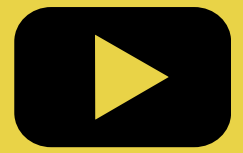
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Click the icons below to connect with us!



How Do I Become a Community Partner?

Through the DSS Community Partner program you can help Connecticut residents apply for benefits at access points in their community.

Current community partners include residential care homes, nursing homes, town social service agencies, and advocacy groups.

If you are interested in becoming a community partner, please email

[**DSS.PartnerSignUp@ct.gov**](mailto:DSS.PartnerSignUp@ct.gov)

Did you know?



You can print common DSS applications, forms and brochures.

[Click here to view common forms](#)