

# SNAP Noncitizen Eligibility

## What is Changing?

Recent federal law passed by Congress and signed by the President newly limits SNAP to certain groups of lawfully present noncitizens. However, many individuals remain eligible for SNAP, including household members with U.S. citizenship and some qualifying immigration statuses.

### You may still be eligible for SNAP if you are a person who is:

- A Citizen of the United States (U.S.);
- A U.S. National (such as persons born in American Samoa or Swains Island);
- A Cuban and Haitian Entrant (CHE);
- A Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) who has met the 5-year waiting period or is exempt from the waiting period;
- A Citizen of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, or Palau

### Starting February 1, 2026, you will no longer be eligible for SNAP and will be denied benefits at application or at recertification if you are a person who is:

- An Asylee;
- A Refugee;
- A Parolee (unless you are a CHE);
- An individual with deportation or removal withheld;
- A Conditional Entrant;
- A Survivor of Trafficking;
- A Battered Noncitizen;
- An Iraqi or Afghan with a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) who is not an LPR;
- A certain Afghan National granted parole between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023; or,
- A certain Ukrainian National granted parole between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2024

## When Will These Changes Apply to Me?

A county worker will check to see if you can keep getting SNAP at your next recertification. You can keep getting and using your SNAP until then. You may become eligible for SNAP if your immigration status changes. There is nothing you need to do at this time.

## Where to Get More Information:

- **If you need help getting food now**, contact your local food bank: [feedingthecarolinas.org](https://feedingthecarolinas.org)
- **For legal assistance**, contact [Legal Aid of North Carolina](https://www.legalaidnc.org/): **1-866-219-LANC**
- Contact your local county DSS office to speak with your county social services worker.
- Call **NC 2-1-1** for referrals to food assistance and other services. For speech and/or hearing assistance, call **711 Relay**.
- To find a local county DSS office near you, visit: [ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/local-dss-directory](https://ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/local-dss-directory)

