

**IF I AM ELIGIBLE FOR SNAP,  
HOW DO I APPLY?**

You can apply for SNAP benefits one of three ways:

1. Apply online at [www.abe.illinois.gov](http://www.abe.illinois.gov)
2. Apply in person at your local Family Community Resource Center. Locations can be found at [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us)
3. Apply by phone at **1-800-843-6154**

After you submit an application, IDHS may contact you for a follow-up interview to provide income and identity documents or other information.



For more information on applying for SNAP as a college student or if you need legal assistance, contact the

**LAW PROJECT**  
of the

**Chicago Coalition for the Homeless**

1-800-940-1119

or email Beth Malik at

[beth@chicagohomeless.org](mailto:beth@chicagohomeless.org)



**LAW PROJECT**  
**CHICAGO COALITION**  
**FOR THE HOMELESS**

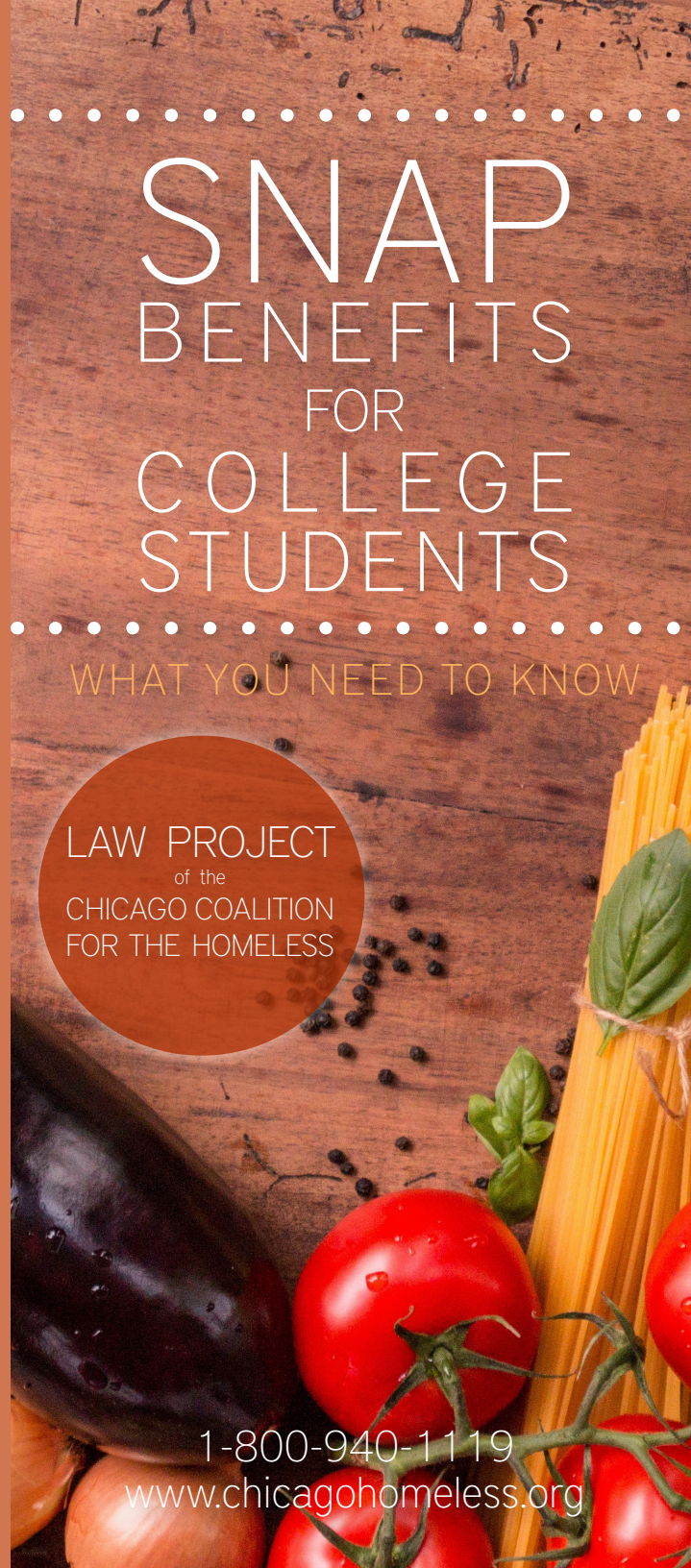
[www.chicagohomeless.org](http://www.chicagohomeless.org)

# SNAP BENEFITS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**LAW PROJECT**  
of the  
**CHICAGO COALITION**  
FOR THE HOMELESS

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## WHAT IS SNAP?

SNAP or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program provides low-income households with a monthly amount of cash that can only be used for groceries. The cash is provided through an EBT or LINK Card.

To qualify for SNAP, a household's total Gross Monthly Income must be 130% to 165% of the Federal Poverty Limit. The maximum gross monthly income for a household of one (not disabled or over age 60) is \$1,634. A "household" is anyone living together who regularly purchases and prepares meals together. Certain people must be considered in the same household for the purposes of SNAP, including:

- Parents and Children up to age 22 IF they live together
- Minors under 18-years-old living with an adult caretaker
- Spouses

Individuals in the same SNAP household must apply together and be on the same SNAP account.



## WHAT IF I AM ENROLLED IN COLLEGE? CAN I APPLY FOR SNAP?

Students enrolled at least half-time in college or vocational training are NOT eligible for SNAP benefits unless they meet one of the following exceptions:

- Are under 18-years-old or over 50-years-old;
- Work an average of 20 hours per week;
- Participate in a state or federal work study program;
- Receive TANF cash assistance;
- Are responsible for the care of a child between 6 and 12-years-old and adequate child care is not available for school or work; OR
- Are enrolled full-time and is a single parent of a child under 12.



As of January 1, 2018, low-income Illinois community college students enrolled in a Perkins- approved course of study will be eligible to apply for SNAP benefits, whether enrolled full or part-time. Perkins-approved areas of study include:

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Art, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications
- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

If you are low-income and enrolled in one of the programs listed above in a community college, you will need to get a verification form signed by a school counselor or administrator.

Verification forms can be found at [www.chicagohomeless.org/verification](http://www.chicagohomeless.org/verification). You will also need to bring a current copy of your transcript or class schedule to your SNAP appointment.