

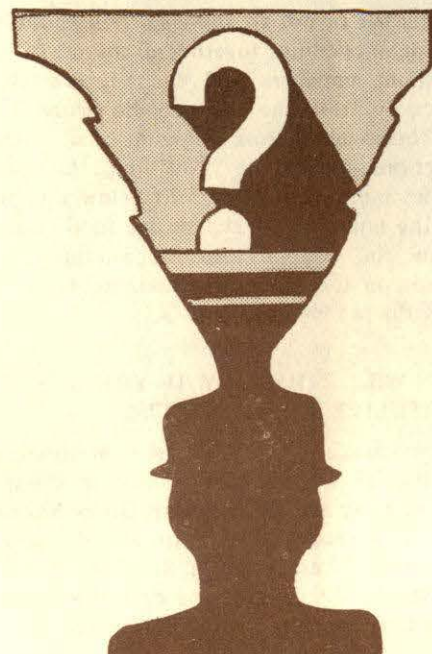
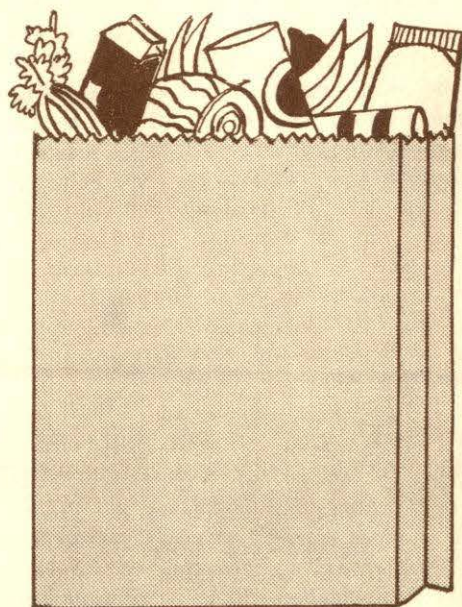
Food Stamp Office. You must report a change within 10 days of the date the change becomes known to the household, such as changes of more than \$25 in income or deductible expenses or a change in household size.

If you receive an incorrect issuance in food stamps due to an unintentional error on your part, you may be required to pay it back.

If anyone in your household purposely breaks any rules of the Food Stamp Program, they may be barred from participation in the program for 1 month to 2 years, and may be fined or imprisoned or both.

WHAT IS THE NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY?

The United States Department of Agriculture mandates that benefits of the Food Stamp Program must be extended to all eligible households without regard to race, color, sex, religious creed, national origin, political beliefs, age, marital status, or handicap.



HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ON FOOD STAMPS?

If you want additional information about the Food Stamp Program, you may contact the Food Stamp Office in the county where you live. The address and telephone number for each county in New Jersey is listed on the back of this pamphlet.

The State of New Jersey also provides a Hotline to answer questions and to provide information about the program. In addition, New Jersey residents with problems or complaints about food stamps may call this Hotline number to request a review. The Hotline is in operation between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The toll free number is 800 - 792 - 9773.

Information contained in this pamphlet does not have the effect of law, regulation or ruling.

Department of Human Services
Division of Public Welfare
FSP - 920 Rev. 2-79

COUNTY FOOD STAMP OFFICES

ATLANTIC
1601 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City
609-348-3001

MIDDLESEX
390 George St.
New Brunswick
201-745-3227

BERGEN
East 221, Rte. 4
Paramus
201-646-3300

MONMOUTH
E. Freehold & Burlington Rds.
P. O. Box 3000
Freehold
201-431-6000

BURLINGTON
Burlington-Mt. Holly Rd.
Rte. 541
Burlington
609-386-5353

MORRIS
Hall of Records
Court St.
Morristown
201-285-6000

CAMDEN
600 Market Street
Camden
609-757-8694

OCEAN
1027 Hooper Ave.
Toms River
201-349-1500

CAPE MAY
P.O. Box 222
Intersection Rte. 47 & 49
Rio Grande
609-729-9200

PASSAIC
52 Church St.
Paterson
201-881-0100

CUMBERLAND
13 N. East Boulevard
Vineland
609-691-4410

SALEM
98 Market St.
Salem
609-935-7510

ESSEX
1015 Broad St.
Newark
201-733-2400

SOMERSET
18 Grove St.
Somerville
201-725-4700

GLOUCESTER
Southwood-Budd Blvd.
P.O. Box 633
Woodbury
609-848-9550

SUSSEX
18 Church St.
Newton
201-383-3600

HUDSON
2853 Kennedy Blvd.
Sixth Floor
Jersey City
201-420-3000

UNION
7 Bridge St.
Elizabeth
201-351-1112

HUNTERDON
Box 49 B - Rd. 6
Flemington
201-782-4300

WARREN
Court House Annex
Second St. Entrance
Belvidere
201-475-5361

MERCER
120 S. Stockton St.
Trenton
609-989-4461

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FOOD STAMPS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN NEW JERSEY



THE NEW FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

At a time when high prices are making it harder for many people to buy the food they need for good nutrition, the new Food Stamp Program makes it even easier to increase food purchasing power. Food stamps, which are issued by the USDA, are now available to all eligible households for free. The amount of extra buying power depends upon the size and income of the household applying for the food stamps.

WHAT ARE FOOD STAMPS?

Food stamps are coupons that can be used like cash to buy groceries at almost all food stores. The coupons can also be used to pay for meals in some special programs such as "Meals-On-Wheels", which is for people age 60 or over who cannot prepare their own meals.



ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FOOD STAMPS?

Food stamps may be available to persons with limited incomes such as those:

- With no jobs;
- Who work part-time or for low wages;
- Who have difficulty managing their food budgets because of low income;
- On Social Security or small pensions;
- On Public Assistance or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

AND

- Who do not have more than \$1,750 in savings or other resources (\$3,000 for households of two or more persons which include someone age 60 or older).

WHO CAN APPLY FOR FOOD STAMPS?

Anyone who is the head of a household of one or more persons or is the official representative of a household can apply.

WHERE DO YOU APPLY FOR FOOD STAMPS?

You must apply in the county where you live. Your county's main Food Stamp Office is listed on the back of this pamphlet. Most counties have more than one office. These other offices are called "Outreach Sites" and there may be one nearer your home. To find out, call the telephone number for your county listed on the back.

WHAT IF YOU CANNOT TRAVEL TO ONE OF THESE OFFICES?

If it is impossible for you to go to the Food Stamp Office to be interviewed, you may have someone, called an authorized representative, represent you at that office.

You can also make arrangements in certain instances, such as when you are seriously ill, to have someone visit you at your home. This is called a "Home Visit".

To find out about these possibilities, contact your County Food Stamp Office.

HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR FOOD STAMPS?

You have a right to apply immediately for food stamps, either in person or by mail. Contact the County Food Stamp Office and request an application. After you submit an application with at least your name, address, and signature, you will be interviewed.

When you go to the County Food Stamp Office or one of its Outreach Sites, you may be asked to show proof of:

- Address of household, such as shown on driver's license, bill or rent receipt;
- Income received each month by each member of the household, such as earnings, pension, unemployment compensation, alimony and support payments, etc.;
- Amount owed each month by household members for rent or mortgage, utilities, cost of having someone take care of pre-school children or
- Amount of money in savings or checking accounts and other resources, such as stocks or bonds.

WHAT IS "NET" FOOD STAMP INCOME AND HOW IS IT USED IN DETERMINING WHETHER YOU ARE ELIGIBLE?

Briefly, the County Food Stamp Office goes through a carefully devised budgeting procedure in determin-

ing whether or not an applicant household is eligible. This includes adding together all sources of income of household members and then subtracting certain deductions from the total income figure. The difference between "Gross" income and "Allowable" deductions equals the "Net" monthly income. If this net monthly income falls below a certain level, then the household is eligible for food coupons. The amount of coupons the household will receive depends on the size of the household and how high or low the net income figure is.

WHEN WILL YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FOOD STAMPS?

In most cases an applicant must be notified in writing regarding his/her eligibility for food stamps within 30 days after the Food Stamp Office has received a signed application. If you are eligible, you will get your first "Authorization to Participate" (ATP) card within 30 days of the date the County Food Stamp Office received your application.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF FOOD ASSISTANCE?

If your household has little or no income at the time that you apply for food stamps and you are in need



of immediate food assistance, you may be eligible for quick service. The County Food Stamp Office will determine this at the time of your application.

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FOOD STAMPS?

If you qualify for food stamps you must be certified for a certain period of time. The period is usually one, three, or six months depending upon your particular circumstances.

Before the end of your certification period, the County Food Stamp Office will send you a letter arranging for an appointment so that you can reapply. This process is called recertification and is necessary if you want to receive food stamps for another period.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU ARE CERTIFIED?

Once you are certified, you will be mailed a food stamp ID card and an ATP card which indicates how much you will receive in food stamps.

You no longer have to pay for your food stamps. However, you may get less than another household of the same size because you have more net income.

HOW DO YOU GET THE FOOD STAMPS?

You can receive your stamps at certain banks or other authorized outlets by showing your ID and ATP cards. Your County Food Stamp Office will tell you where you can go to get the stamps.

WHERE CAN YOU USE FOOD STAMPS?

Almost all food stores accept food stamps. You present your ID card and simply pay for your groceries with stamps instead of cash.

Food stamps can be used to buy food and food-producing items, such as seeds and plants; they *cannot* be used to buy tobacco, alcoholic beverages, pet food, or things you cannot eat.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE FOOD STAMP OFFICE MAKES A MISTAKE?

You have a right to question any action taken by the Food Stamp Office which has to do with your participation in the Food Stamp Program. If the Food Stamp Office turns down your application or you feel the county made a mistake in figuring out your income, or took longer than 30 days to decide on your application, you can ask to see a supervisor to talk it over. Also, you may request a Fair Hearing, at which time you will be able to tell your side of the story or point out a mistake. Fair Hearing requests may be made at the County Food Stamp Office or by writing directly to the Division of Public Welfare, P.O. Box 1627, Trenton, New Jersey 08625 or by calling the toll free Fair Hearing Hotline at 800 - 792 - 8304.

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM?

The information you provide to the Food Stamp Office must be correct and complete to the best of your knowledge. You are responsible for reporting changes in your household's circumstances to the