Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank: Community Connections Partnership Team
SNAP Application Assistance
THE MISSION:
To leverage the power of community to achieve lasting solutions to hunger and its root causes

THE VISION:
Communities where everyone has access to the food and resources they need to thrive

THE NETWORK:
A leading hunger-relief charity serving 11 counties of southwestern Pennsylvania.

We source and distribute food for 40 million meals annually.

On average, we serve more than 110,000 people per month.

Through our network of more than 1000 partners including six distribution centers:
In Fiscal Year 2023 we....
Our Service Area

Allegheny  Greene
Armstrong  Indiana
Beaver  Lawrence
Butler  Somerset
Cambria  Washington
Fayette
The Community Connections Team

We make SNAP benefits more accessible by providing one-on-one assistance and meeting people where they are in the community.

We also offer Food Bank programs information and resources beyond food.

Our Partnership team can provide information through presentations, tabling, materials, and more!
The Community Connections Team

In FY23 we:

Reached over 2,500 neighbors through outreach

Submitted 2,703 SNAP applications and over 1,000 other applications (LIHEAP, Medical Assistance, etc.)

Made over 1,700 resources beyond food referrals

Received over 17,000 calls from neighbors in our service area
Other Food Bank Programs:

The Market

Drive-Up/ Walk-Up Distributions

Child Nutrition Programs

PANTRIES and Pantry Locator

Senior Box Program
Why SNAP?

SNAP offers choices for dietary preferences or restrictions
SNAP puts money back into the community
SNAP reduces strain on pantries and other service organizations
SNAP supplements other food programs
Signing up for SNAP can allow you to apply to other programs, such as reduced cost internet
SNAP provides flexibility in your budget to pay for other needs, such as medicine or utilities
Did You Know?

SNAP Participants Report Better Health Than Eligible Non-Participants
Percent more or less likely to describe health as:

- Excellent: 10.6%
- Very good: 3.9%
- Good: -4.0%
- Fair: -6.0%
- Poor: -4.5%

Source: Christian A. Gregory and Partha Deb, “Does SNAP Improve Your Health?” Food Policy, 2015. Adjusted for differences in demographic, socioeconomic and other characteristics. Sample includes adults aged 20 to 64 in households with income at or below 130% of the federal poverty level.

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Maximum Gross Monthly Income for Households</th>
<th>Monthly Benefit Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$2,430</td>
<td>$23 – $281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$3,288</td>
<td>$23 – $516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$4,144</td>
<td>up to $740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>up to $939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$5,858</td>
<td>up to $1,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional family member</td>
<td>+$858</td>
<td>up to +$211</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eligibility: Factors

The benefit amount you receive is based on both your income and factors in these expenses:

- Rent/mortgage
- Utilities
- Child care or dependent care
- Child support
- Medical costs for people with disabilities and for elderly individuals
Eligibility: Non-Citizens

*Not a complete list of eligibility

Refugees and asylees are always eligible (who have been approved for asylee status, not pending a court case)

Permanent residents under the age of 18; victims of trafficking

Iraqi, Afghani, and Ukrainian immigrants with special visas

There are restrictions on adults who are permanent residents and those who are petitioning for protection under the Violence Against Women Act

Immigrants with temporary visas (student, work, or travel) or without a status are not eligible
Eligibility: College Students

*Not a complete list of eligibility

There are also additional restrictions on students, who can qualify if they meet the income rules AND an exemption like:

- Have 20 hours per week of employment or equivalent in wages or have a work-study award and position
- Have a child under 12 years old
- Have a physical or mental health condition that limits employability
- Enrolled in community college and the college can complete form showing that the student is in a program to improve their employability. (The program is in a high priority occupation, or funded through Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006)
We can help answer questions from neighbors like:

- How long does the application process take?
- What is a renewal period?
- Can I receive a Senior Box, WIC, etc. And SNAP at the same time?
- Who is considered a part of my household?
- Do I need to complete a phone interview?
What can I buy with SNAP Benefits?

**What?**
- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, poultry, and fish
- Dairy products
- Breads and cereals
- Other foods such as snack foods and nonalcoholic beverages
- Seeds and plants that produce food

**Where?**
- Grocery stores
- Superstores
- Convenience Stores
- Pharmacies
- Farmer's Markets
- Online with participating stores
What can I buy with $23?
What can I buy with $23?

Proteins
What can I buy with $23?

Vegetables
What can I buy with $23?

Plant-Based
What can I buy with $23?

Gluten-Free
What can I buy with $23?

Unhoused, on-the-go, no equipment, physical limitations, etc.
### What We Do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>We Can:</th>
<th>We Cannot:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submit new SNAP applications</td>
<td>Approve applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit SNAP renewals</td>
<td>Modify active SNAP cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply for LIHEAP, Childcare and Medical benefits</td>
<td>For question about active cases and lost cards, call 1-877-395-8930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upload client documents</td>
<td>Send EBT cards, new or lost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For question about active cases and lost cards, call 1-877-395-8930
How We Do It

Call 833-822-7627:

• Connect with one of our telephonic coordinators and they will submit an application for you

• If you reach our voicemail, leave a message with your name, county and a specific day and time to reach you
Reach Us Online

Reach Us Online

Reach Us Online

pittsburghfoodbank.org/SNAP

Go to the "Find Food" button at the top of our website

Select SNAP from the menu on the right

Complete the online form and our staff will be notified

One of our skilled application assistants will call you within 2-3 business days.
Become a Referral Partner

You will receive a link to use to refer your neighbors to us to apply for or renew SNAP.

You can use this link during intake, on your websites, or social media to help your neighbors apply for SNAP.

When this link is used, the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank will know it is from your agency and can provide referral reporting.
Let's Collaborate!

General Collaboration: Chris West (Director):
cwest@pittsburghfoodbank.org

Allegheny and General Collaboration:
Samantha Serrano (Supervisor)
sserrano@pittsburghfoodbank.org

Cambria, Indiana: Justin Kurtz (Coordinator)
jkurtz@pittsburghfoodbank.org

Beaver/Butler: Patricia Ferricks (Coordinator)
pferricks@pittsburghfoodbank.org
I'm a Student.
Can I get SNAP?

Yes, as long as you—

Host all normal (SNAP) eligibility requirements, such as the income limits. Your financial and
and/or work-study earnings are not considered.

NOTE: If you are 18 or younger and live at home with your parents, their income must be
considered when determining your eligibility.

AND

Do not have a meal plan — you have a meal plan that provides 15 or fewer meals per week
averaged over the course of a semester.

AND

Qualify for at least one of the following student exemptions:

Exemptions based on Enrollment Status:
- Attending high school.
- Enrolled in school less than half-time as determined by your school or
- Attending a school/training program that is not an institution of higher education, meaning
a school (or special curriculum at a college) which doesn’t require you to have a high school
diploma or GED to enroll.

Exemptions based on Age or Disability:
- Under age 18.
- Age 18 or older and:
- Physically or mentally unfit.

Exemptions based on Being a Parent or Caregiver:
- Receiving TANF benefits.
- Caring for an adult under age 60.
- Caring for a child aged 6-17 whose childcare is unavailable or
- Single parent caring for a child under 18.

Exemptions based on Work or Training:
-working 20 hours or more per week.
- Self-employed and earning at least $100 per week.
- Participating in a work-study program, regardless of hours worked.
- Participating in an on-the-job training program (OJT).
- Enrolled in an approved “Community College Students Only” program.

Special Exemption for Community College Students Only:
- Be enrolled in certain career or major courses of study. Your school can verify you
- Meet the criteria by completing the form.

Annual Exemption for Students Earning Under 4800
- Be enrolled in school through or in compliance with a CPS-approved dual or local program to
increase employment. (See form for details.)
Students who participate in programs that meet the following criteria may now receive SNAP if otherwise eligible:

- Program primarily serves students from low-income households
- Program is operated by a state or local government, or an instrumentality thereof, and
- Program provides equivalent of at least one allowable activity under SNAP E&T

Information on SNAP Eligibility and COMPASS Partnership (youtube.com)
Students enrolled in an IHE *through* programs that increase employability:

- TRIO Upward Bound
- GEARUP
- ELECT
- Title II Adult Basic Education
- Chafee Education and Training Grant
Pennsylvania's Expansion (cont)

Students *in compliance with* programs that increase employability:

- Act 101 Programs
- Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver (FosterEd)
Chafee Education and Training Grant (Chafee ETG) Program

- Enacted into federal law as the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999
  - Amended with the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001
- Program provides grants to undergraduate students aging out of foster care who are attending an approved postsecondary institution
- Jointly administered in PA by PHEAA and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS)
  - Federal allotment provided to DHS through the Education and Training Voucher (ETV)

PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver (FosterEd) Program

- Commonwealth program enacted into law under Act 16 of 2019
  - Amended by Act 91 of 2019 to require students to apply for federal and state grants
- Removes barriers in accessing postsecondary education for youth who are or have been in foster care
  - Waives tuition and mandatory fees for eligible students
- Jointly administered by PHEAA and the PA departments of Education (PDE), Human Services (DHS), and Labor & Industry (L&I)
- No Commonwealth appropriation
Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for Chafee ETG and/or FosterEd, a student must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania who meets the program’s age requirement (under the age of 26)
- Possess a high school diploma or Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma
- Be eligible for services under Pennsylvania’s John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood
  - Be identified as a youth in foster care or a youth discharged, adopted from foster care, or exited foster care on or after age 16 due to permanent legal guardianship
- Not be in default on a federal student loan or owe a refund on other Title IV aid
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (as determined by the postsecondary institution)
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and submit the Chafee ETG application by the program’s deadline
Institutions **must** designate one or more staff as the POC
- Each institution must determine who is most qualified for the role
- Contact information for POC must be publicly available and posted online

**PRIMARY STUDENT CONTACT**
Serve as primary contact for potentially eligible foster youth applying to and attending the institution

**FINANCIAL AID AND ELIGIBILITY ASSISTANCE**
Assist students in attaining FosterEd eligibility, as well as ensure students apply for applicable federal, state, and/or other financial aid

**RESOURCE REFERRALS**
Provide students with information and referrals for both on-campus and off-campus resources (e.g., tutoring, mental health, medical insurance, transitional housing, etc.)
Questions?

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