

Food Stamps/SNAP—How Does Immigration Status Affect Benefit Amounts?

Family Scenario	SNAP Rule	SNAP Benefit
<p>A. Eligible Household of 3</p> <p><i>1 parent</i> – U.S. citizen, refugee group or LPR with 5 years</p> <p><i>2 kids</i> - US citizens or LPRs</p>	<p>Regular SNAP Calc for a 3 pp HH</p> <p>106 CMR 364.400 thru.600</p> <p>Note: Eligible legal immigrants have right to “opt-out” of HH, moving them from this calc to middle calc below.</p>	<p>SNAP for HH = \$391</p> <p>\$ 1,306 gross monthly income - 20% earnings deduction - \$ 157 standard deduction - \$ 517 shelter deduction = \$ 372 net income</p> <p>\$ 511 (max SNAP for 3 ppl) - \$ 111 countable income (1/3 net) = \$ 400 SNAP allotment</p>
<p>B. Eligible Household of 2</p> <p><i>Parent</i> is legally present but ineligible LPR due to the 5 year wait, or has work authorization (PRUCOL) but not qualified.</p> <p><i>2 kids</i> - US citizens or LPRs (no 5 year wait for LPR kids nor sponsor deeming)</p>	<p>Three Step Eligibility Calc for 3 pp HH</p> <p>106 CMR 364.600 (C), 365.520 (B)</p> <p>This calc gives the maximum possible SNAP benefit for the eligible children by minimizing the ineligible parent’s income.</p>	<p>SNAP for HH = \$357</p> <p>Step 1: Use calculation above - amount for HH of 3ppl = \$400</p> <p>Step 2: Then calc for 2 kids - excluding income of ineligible parent. This gives the max SNAP for HH of 2ppl is: \$357</p> <p>Step 3: HH gets the <u>lesser</u> value of \$357 (vs \$400). The 2 children cannot receive more than the HH would otherwise receive as 3 ppl.</p>
<p>C. Eligible Household of 2, with SNAP ineligible parent</p> <p>Parent undocumented or not willing to give status information</p> <p><i>2 kids</i> - US citizens or LPRs (no 5 year wait for LPR kids)</p>	<p>Undoc Immigrant or “Sanction” Calc</p> <p>106 CMR 365.520 (A)</p> <p>This calc must be done for a 2 pp HH - but the income of the ineligible parent is fully counted against the kids’ SNAP allotment.</p>	<p>SNAP for HH = \$237</p> <p>\$ 1,306 gross monthly income - 20% earnings deduction - \$ 157 standard deduction - \$ 517 shelter deduction = \$ 372 net income</p> <p>\$ 357 (max SNAP for 2 ppl) - \$ 111 countable income (1/3 net) = \$ 246 SNAP allotment</p>

Family information for all three scenarios:

- 3 people—mother and 2 children
- Mother earns \$1,306/mo gross income
- Family pays \$800 in rent.
- Heat and AC not included in rent.

This chart demonstrates how immigration status can affect the SNAP amount a family will receive under the Massachusetts SNAP rules. Treatment of immigrant household member income may vary by state.

In the chart, the income, expenses and number of people in the family *stays the same* in each calculation. The *immigration status of the parent changes*, causing the SNAP benefit levels to change.

Note: Even though the parent is SNAP ineligible (scenario B) - under the “*mixed HH SNAP rules*”- the children get a higher SNAP benefit due because the parent has legal status. This is not true if the parent were undocumented, or had status but declined to provide information to DTA. Where the parent is ineligible, the SNAP amount is capped so as not to make the HH better off than HHs where all members are eligible.

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