

U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Education Announce New Partnership to Expand SNAP Awareness and Access for Eligible College Students

Contact: [U.S. Department of Education Press Office](#)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the U.S. Department of Education’s office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) today announced the signing of a joint agreement to strengthen college student access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP.

This agreement aims to increase awareness of SNAP among college students, as new data shows millions of students eligible for food assistance are falling through the cracks. A recent [Government Accountability Office report](#) revealed 67% of the 3.3 million college students potentially eligible for SNAP reported not receiving benefits.

"We're committed to making SNAP more accessible and easier to understand for low-income college students," said USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Deputy Under Secretary Cindy Long. "Many of

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today's college students are balancing jobs and family responsibilities. For eligible students can focus on their education, mental health, and making difficult choices between groceries, textbooks, and other necessities.

Today's action is a key achievement of the Biden-Harris [Nutrition and Health](#) plan. FNS and FSA will work together to help eligible students who may be eligible for SNAP by informing them of their potential eligibility, the rules for students, and how to apply. They will also work to help them provide clear guidance to students on SNAP. These efforts are aimed at increasing awareness of students' potential barriers that prevent many eligible students from accessing SNAP.

“Almost one-quarter of college students experience food insecurity, and those who qualify for SNAP are not receiving benefits. This joint action between the Department of Education and USDA to work together to address the support they need to afford and complete college,” said Secretary Kvaal.

The agreement also includes plans to pilot data-sharing between SNAP agencies and colleges to collaborate in outreach and providing technical support to institutions and agencies. By sharing *Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) data, this information will allow agencies to more effectively reach potential SNAP applicants and provide the support they need. The Department of Education has previously worked with higher education and state grant agencies can use FAFSA data to help students access SNAP benefits, such as SNAP.

To qualify for SNAP, students enrolled in institutions of higher education must meet the program's [income and other requirements](#) as well as be a student, such as enrolling in a work-study program, working at least 20 hours per week, or having a disability.

State agencies administer SNAP, process applications, and provide information. Students should contact the [local SNAP office](#) where they reside to learn more. Institutions of higher education with questions about state SNAP agencies should contact their [state SNAP agency](#).

For More Information

- Infographic: [SNAP College Student Eligibility](#)

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service works to end hunger through a suite of [16 nutrition assistance programs](#), such as SNAP.

WIC and SNAP. Together, these programs serve 1 in 4 Americans, ensuring consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable food and well-being. FNS also provides science-based nutrition information and education based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. FNS's report, "[Promote and Elevate Nutrition Security: The Role of the Agency](#)" outlines ways the agency will support the Biden-Harris Administration in conjunction with the historic White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in 2022. To learn more about FNS, visit www.fns.usda.gov

As a principal office of the U.S. Department of Education, FSA is the largest federal financial aid program in the nation's postsecondary education system as the largest that all eligible Americans can benefit from federal financial aid beyond high school. In FY23, FSA provided approximately \$10 billion in study funds to help more than 9.7 million students and programs, products, and services, visit StudentAid.gov

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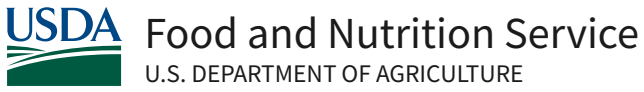
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