



State Department of Human Services
123 Main Street
Hometown, ST 12345-6789

Case ID Number: 12345A
Notice Date: October 17, 2020
Program: Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program (SNAP)

Notice of Denial

You Are Not Eligible for Benefits

Dear [Name],

You applied for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits on October 8, 2020. This letter is to let you know that we made a decision regarding your application.

What is our decision?

We have **denied** your request for SNAP benefits because **your income is higher than the program limit.**

What can you do?

You may call us at 1-800-123-4567 to talk about this decision. Have this letter and your Case ID Number ready when you call. Your Case ID Number is 12345A. You may reapply at any time.

What else do you need to know?

- Please tell us if you are approved to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or [State] General Assistance Program. If you are approved for one of these programs, you may be able to get SNAP.
- You may request a fair hearing. If you disagree with this decision, you have the right to ask us to do a more formal review of this decision. We call this a fair hearing. Read the section on "Your Right to a Fair Hearing" below.
- You may qualify for free legal help. Call [State Legal Aid Name] at 555-555-5555 for more information.

What to do if you need help?

If you have questions or need more information, please call us at 1-800-123-4567, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. You may also visit our website (www.dhs.st.gov) for general information.

Sincerely,

State Department of Human Services

Visit www.dhs.st.gov to apply for assistance or view case information.

Si lo solicita, podemos traducir esta información para usted. Por favor, llame al 1-800-123-4567.

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Commented [IPR1]: Consideration for this Notice

This notice was developed to model Federal SNAP notice requirements for this notice type and communication best practices. In developing and revising SNAP notices, State agencies should carefully consider the range of Federal, State, and local requirements that may apply, including civil rights disclosures, limited English proficiency requirements, and others. State agencies are advised to consult their FNS Regional Offices for help determining the implications of Federal requirements, policy and administrative options, and waivers on the content of their notices.

These model notices are best used in conjunction with the FNS SNAP Model Notice Toolkit, including the notice review tools (NRTs).

Commented [IPR2]: Consideration for this Notice

This model notice is intended to be customized by each State agency, adding the appropriate State agency's logo, address, contact information, and website address throughout. Client information, case ID number, and program name should also be edited accordingly to reflect the State's SNAP program conventions.

Commented [IPR3]: Policy Requirement

Explanation for the basis of denial
See 7 CFR 273.10(g)(1)(ii)
See also NRT, policy requirements tab

Commented [IPR4]: Policy Requirement

Telephone number of SNAP office: either local office or statewide number
See 7 CFR 273.10(g)(1)(ii)
See also NRT, policy requirements tab

Commented [IPR5]: Consideration for this Notice

This reflects an on-demand or unscheduled interviewed waiver process. States should customize the notice to meet their policies and processes.

Commented [IPR6]: Policy Requirement

For households potentially categorically eligible, request the household notify the SNAP office if it is approved for public assistance or SSI benefits
See 7 CFR 273.10(g)(1)(ii)
See also NRT, policy requirements tab

Commented [IPR7]: Policy Requirement

Right to request a Fair Hearing
See 7 CFR 273.10(g)(1)(ii)
See also NRT, policy requirements tab

Commented [IPR8]: Policy Requirement

Name and contact information for organization that provides free legal services if available
See 7 CFR 273.10(g)(1)(ii)
See also NRT, policy requirements tab

Commented [IPR9]: Consideration for this Notice

Signature contact information, including website in footer of the notice, should be customized with appropriate State agency information.

1-800-123-4567
www.dhs.st.gov

Please read on to find out more about your rights and responsibilities.

For notices in large print or another format, please call our helpline at 1-800-123-4567 TDD (telecommunication device for the deaf).

Si lo solicita, podemos traducir esta información para usted. Por favor, llame al 1-800-123-4567.

Commented [IPR10]: Additional Policy Consideration
Additional rights and responsibilities may apply. This includes relevant Federal, State, and local requirements regarding civil rights protections, program integrity, or other client rights and responsibilities.

Your Right to a Fair Hearing

Commented [IPR11]: Consideration for this Notice
State agencies should customize the information provided in this section with their own Fair Hearing Procedures.

What is a fair hearing?

If you disagree with a decision made on your SNAP application or case, you have the right to request a fair hearing. A fair hearing means that an official will review the facts of your case in a fair and objective manner as required by law.

Commented [IPR12]: Communication Best Practice
• Use of clear writing with simple sentences written in active voice, following the principles of plain language.
• See NRT, comprehension and readability tab

In what situations can you ask for a fair hearing?

You may ask for a fair hearing if any of the following apply to you:

- You applied for SNAP benefits and were denied.
- You disagree with a decision on your case.
- You believe your SNAP benefits were not calculated correctly.

When is the deadline to request a fair hearing?

- If you want a fair hearing because we closed your SNAP case or denied your request for SNAP benefits, you must request it by **[enter date 90 days from decision date]**.
- If you want a fair hearing about your current SNAP benefits, you may request a fair hearing any time before [enter certification period end date].
- If you request a hearing because we closed your case or decreased your SNAP benefits, you may choose to keep getting your benefits until a hearing decision is made. You may choose to continue receiving SNAP benefits only if your certification period has not ended. If you choose to do this, you may have to pay those SNAP benefits back if you lose the fair hearing. To continue your SNAP benefits, you must request a fair hearing by [enter date upon which action becomes effective].

How do you ask for a fair hearing?

To request a fair hearing:

1. [State can fill in specific procedures for requesting a fair hearing in-person, in writing, and over the phone in a numbered list]
- 2.

Commented [IPR13]: Communication Best Practice
• Simple design with use of whitespace and attention to how information is presented on the page.
• See NRT, comprehension and readability tab

Can you get free legal help?

You may be able to get free legal help from [State Legal Aid Name] by calling 555-555-5555 or visiting www.statelegalaid.org for more information.

Commented [IPR14]: Consideration for this Notice
State agencies should customize the contact information for this section.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.