

# Nevada SNAP BENEFITS

## A Plain-Language Navigation Guide

For Individuals, Families, and Nonprofits Serving Vulnerable Populations | Updated May 2026

### What This Guide Covers

Eligibility rules • Income limits • Required documents • Step-by-step application • Work requirements • Why people lose benefits • Key contacts

### Federal Changes in Effect (2025–2026)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed July 4, 2025, expanded ABAWD work requirements (now ages 18–64), narrowed non-citizen eligibility, and made other changes to SNAP nationally. This guide reflects rules as of May 2026. Always verify current rules with DWSS at [dwss.nv.gov](http://dwss.nv.gov) or 1-800-992-0900.

## Section 1: What Is SNAP?

SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. In Nevada it is administered by the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS). Benefits are issued monthly through an EBT card accepted at authorized grocery stores, farmers markets, and major online retailers including Amazon and Walmart.

Nevada uses a 200% FPL income threshold through BBCE — among the most generous in the Mountain West — and has fully lifted the drug felony ban. Nevada's large hospitality and service industry means many workers have tip income that must be reported. As of June 2025, DWSS now requires proof of shelter and utility expenses at application, making it important to bring those documents.

### Nevada SNAP: Key Facts at a Glance

- 200% FPL gross income limit — no asset test for most households
- Full drug felony ban lift — no conditions or treatment requirements
- Tips count as earned income and must be reported — important for casino, restaurant, and hospitality workers

- Effective June 2025: shelter and utility expense verification NOW REQUIRED at application
- Access Nevada portal ([accessnevada.dwss.nv.gov](https://accessnevada.dwss.nv.gov)) for online applications and document upload
- Some counties have ABAWD waivers — verify with your DWSS district office

## Section 2: Eligibility Requirements

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### 2.1 Residency

You must currently reside in Nevada. There is no minimum residency period. You do not need a permanent address — a shelter address, transitional housing address, or a signed statement from a non-relative confirming your location can satisfy the requirement.

### 2.2 Citizenship and Immigration Status

The following individuals are generally eligible:

- U.S. citizens (born or naturalized)
- Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card holders) who have held status for at least 5 years
- Certain refugees, asylees, and Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIVs)

#### **2025 Change: Non-Citizen Eligibility Narrowed**

The OBBBA (July 4, 2025) removed SNAP eligibility for humanitarian parolees, most asylum seekers pending a decision, and several other categories that previously qualified. U.S.-born children in mixed-status households may still qualify. Contact your local DWSS office or a legal aid organization if your immigration status is unclear.

### 2.3 Household Composition

Your SNAP household includes everyone who lives together and regularly purchases and prepares food together. Members who buy and prepare food separately may form their own household unit.

### 2.4 Income Limits

Nevada uses Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. There is no asset test for most households. Nevada is among the more accessible SNAP states in the Mountain West region.

Exception: Households where all members are age 60+ or have a documented disability have NO gross income limit — only the net income test applies.

### Nevada SNAP Income Limits and Maximum Benefits (FY 2026, Oct. 1, 2025 – Sept. 30, 2026)

HH Size	Gross Limit	Elderly/Disabled Gross Limit	Net Limit (100% FPL)	Max Monthly Benefit
1	\$2,510	No limit*	\$1,255	\$292
2	\$3,398	No limit*	\$1,699	\$536
3	\$4,287	No limit*	\$2,144	\$766
4	\$5,178	No limit*	\$2,589	\$994
5	\$6,067	No limit*	\$3,034	\$1,155
6	\$6,956	No limit*	\$3,478	\$1,386
7	\$7,845	No limit*	\$3,923	\$1,532
8+	+\$889/person	No limit*	+\$445/person	+\$177/person

\* Elderly/disabled households have no gross income limit — only the net income limit applies. Limits update each October 1.

### How Net Income Is Calculated

Net income = gross income minus approved deductions. The lower your net income, the higher your monthly benefit. Standard deductions include:

- 20% earned income deduction — automatically applied to all wages and self-employment income
- Standard deduction: \$204/month for households of 1–3; higher for larger households
- Excess shelter deduction: rent/mortgage plus utilities exceeding 50% of net income after other deductions
- Dependent care deduction: childcare or adult care costs paid while working, job searching, or in training
- Medical expense deduction: out-of-pocket costs over \$35/month for members 60+ or with a qualifying disability
- Child support deduction: legally obligated child support paid to someone outside the household



#### Nevada Deduction Note

Nevada DWSS now requires proof of shelter and utility expenses at application (effective June 2025). Bring your lease/mortgage statement and utility bills to every appointment. Las Vegas and Reno rents have risen sharply — the excess shelter deduction can meaningfully reduce net

income and increase benefit amounts. Desert cooling costs (air conditioning) also factor into utility allowances.

## 2.5 Asset Limits

For most Nevada households under BBCE, there is NO asset test. Savings, vehicles, and investments are not counted. Exception: elderly/disabled households whose income exceeds 200% FPL face a \$4,250 asset limit. Primary homes and one vehicle are always exempt.

## Section 3: Work Requirements

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Work requirements are the most common reason people lose SNAP benefits. Understanding these rules — and which exemptions or waivers apply — is critical.

### 3.1 Standard Work Requirements (All Adults 16–59)

All able-bodied adults between ages 16 and 59 must meet at least one of the following:

- Be employed (any number of hours)
- Be registered for work with Nevada JobConnect Centers
- Participate in an approved employment or training program
- Not have voluntarily quit a job without good cause or reduced hours below 30/week

### 3.2 ABAWD Rules

ABAWDs are adults ages 18–64 without dependents who are not disabled and not otherwise exempt. Nevada enforces ABAWD rules in areas without active waivers. County-level waivers have applied in some Nevada counties based on local unemployment rates.

ABAWDs must complete at least 80 hours per month (20 hours/week) of qualifying activity: employment, job training, volunteering, or participation in an approved work program.

Without meeting this requirement, ABAWDs can only receive SNAP for 3 months in any 36-month period.



#### **Nevada ABAWD Note**

Some Nevada counties have had active ABAWD waivers during periods of high unemployment. Contact your DWSS district office to confirm current waiver status in your area. Nevada's hospitality and tourism sector can create volatile employment conditions — if you've recently

lost a service industry job, document your job search activities immediately to protect against the 3-month limit.

### 3.3 Exemptions from ABAWD Requirements

The following individuals are exempt from ABAWD time limits:

- Physically or mentally unfit for employment (documented by a physician or licensed clinical social worker)
- Pregnant
- Responsible for a dependent child under age 14 living in the same household
- Enrolled at least half-time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education
- Participating in a drug or alcohol treatment or rehabilitation program
- Age 15 or younger, or 65 or older
- Recently released from an institution (incarceration or psychiatric facility)
- Survivors of domestic violence
- Experiencing homelessness (may qualify under 'unfit for employment' — ask your caseworker)

### 3.4 How to Document Work or an Exemption

Report work activity or exemption status to your DWSS office through the online portal (Access Nevada ([accessnevada.dwss.nv.gov](https://accessnevada.dwss.nv.gov))), by phone, or in person. If you believe you qualify for any exemption, submit documentation before your benefit period runs out.

## Section 4: Required Documents

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Gather these before applying. Missing documents are the most common cause of delays.

### 4.1 Always Required

- Proof of Identity: Driver's license, state-issued ID, passport, or birth certificate
- Social Security Number (SSN): For each household member applying
- Proof of Nevada Residency: Utility bill, lease agreement, official mail, or a signed statement from a non-relative

### 4.2 Income Verification

- Pay stubs from the last 30 days (for employed applicants)

- Most recent W-2, 1099, or tax return (for self-employment income)
- Award letter or benefit statement for Social Security, SSI, unemployment, or other unearned income
- Documentation of child support received or paid

### 4.3 Deduction Documentation (Strongly Recommended)

- Rent or mortgage statement
- Utility bills (or claim the Standard Utility Allowance — ask your caseworker which produces a higher deduction)
- Childcare or dependent care receipts
- Medical bills for members 60+ or with disabilities

 **Tip: Apply First, Gather Documents Later**

Submit your application as soon as possible to lock in your application date — benefits are generally backdated to that date if approved. Your caseworker will notify you of any additional documents needed.

## Section 5: Step-by-Step Application Process

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### Step 1: Check Your Eligibility

Use the SNAP eligibility calculator at [snapeligibilitycalculator.com](https://snapeligibilitycalculator.com), call 1-800-992-0900, or visit your local DWSS office.

### Step 2: Apply

Method	Details
Access Nevada Online	<a href="https://accessnevada.dwss.nv.gov">accessnevada.dwss.nv.gov</a> — apply online, upload shelter/utility documents, track case.
Phone	Call 1-800-992-0900 (Mon–Fri) or your DWSS district office.
In Person	Visit your local DWSS district office. Find locations at <a href="https://dwss.nv.gov">dwss.nv.gov</a> .
By Mail	Download application from <a href="https://dwss.nv.gov">dwss.nv.gov</a> ; mail with shelter/utility documentation.

### **Step 3: Attend Your Interview**

After submitting, DWSS will schedule a mandatory interview — typically by phone. Missing the interview is the most common reason applications are denied. Reschedule immediately if you cannot attend.

### **Step 4: Receive a Decision**

DWSS must process standard applications within 30 days. If approved, you will receive an EBT card by mail. If denied, you have 90 days to appeal.

### **Expedited / Emergency Processing (7-Day)**

You may qualify for 7-day expedited benefits if: gross monthly income is under \$150 AND liquid assets are under \$100; OR combined monthly income and liquid assets are less than monthly rent plus utilities; OR you are a migrant/seasonal farmworker with liquid assets under \$100.

## **Section 6: Special Situations**

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### **6.1 Experiencing Homelessness**

You do not need a permanent address to apply. DWSS accepts shelter addresses, transitional housing addresses, or a signed statement from a non-relative. Dial 211 for local shelter and benefits navigation resources.

### **6.2 People With Disabilities or Elderly Members**

Households where all members are 60+ or disabled benefit from: no gross income test (only net income limit), uncapped shelter deduction, medical expense deduction, and higher asset limits (where applicable).

### **6.3 Drug Felony Convictions**

Nevada has fully lifted the federal drug felony ban. Individuals with any drug-related felony conviction are fully eligible for SNAP if they otherwise meet income and eligibility requirements — no treatment programs, drug testing, or compliance conditions apply.

### **6.4 Students**

Students enrolled at least half-time must meet at least one exception: work 20+ hours/week, participate in work-study, care for a dependent child under 6, receive TANF, or be enrolled in an approved training program.

## 6.5 Tip Income for Hospitality Workers

Nevada's large hospitality, casino, and service industry workforce means many SNAP applicants have tip income. Tips are counted as earned income and must be reported. However, the 20% earned income deduction applies to tips just like wages — so higher earned income from tips also produces a larger deduction. DWSS has resources specific to Las Vegas-area hospitality workers; ask your caseworker for guidance on reporting fluctuating tip income.

## Section 7: Why People Lose Benefits — and How to Avoid It

### Most Common Reasons SNAP Benefits Are Cut Off

#### 1. Missing the recertification (renewal) deadline

Certification periods last 6–12 months. Set a calendar reminder 60 days before your certification end date and monitor your online account regularly.

#### 2. Failing the ABAWD work requirement without claiming an exemption

ABAWDs who do not work 80 hours/month and have not claimed a valid exemption are cut off after 3 months. Check county waiver status and document any exemption in writing at every recertification.

#### 3. Missing the interview or not responding to agency notices

Keep your phone number and mailing address current with the agency. Check your online account regularly.

#### 4. Failure to report changes in income or household composition

Report changes within 10 days. Failure to report can result in overpayments and case closure.

## Your Right to Appeal

If DWSS denies or reduces your benefits, request a Fair Hearing within 90 days of the notice. If you request within 10 days of a termination notice, your benefits may continue during the review. Contact Nevada Legal Services ([nevadalegalservices.org](http://nevadalegalservices.org), 1-800-522-1070) for free legal assistance.

## Section 8: Key Contacts and Resources

Resource	Contact / What They Help With
DWSS SNAP Hotline	1-800-992-0900   <a href="http://dwss.nv.gov">dwss.nv.gov</a>
Access Nevada (Online Portal)	<a href="http://accessnevada.dwss.nv.gov">accessnevada.dwss.nv.gov</a> — apply, upload documents, manage benefits

Resource	Contact / What They Help With
DWSS District Office Locator	<a href="http://dwss.nv.gov/find-office">dwss.nv.gov/find-office</a>
Nevada JobConnect	<a href="http://nevadajobconnect.com">nevadajobconnect.com</a> — E&T activities for ABAWD compliance
Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)	<a href="http://threesquare.org">threesquare.org</a>   702-765-4030 — food assistance and SNAP outreach
Food Bank of Northern Nevada (Reno)	<a href="http://fbnn.org">fbnn.org</a>   775-331-3663 — food assistance and SNAP navigation
Nevada 211	Dial 211 — food banks, benefits navigation, emergency resources
Nevada Legal Services	<a href="http://nevadalegalservices.org">nevadalegalservices.org</a>   1-800-522-1070 — free legal help with SNAP appeals

### A Note on Navigating Nevada's System

Nevada's 200% BBCE, no asset test, and full drug felony ban lift make it very accessible. The most important recent change: shelter and utility verification is now required at application (June 2025) — clients must bring lease and utility documentation to every appointment. Tip income is a common reporting error for hospitality workers. For advocates: help clients gather shelter documentation proactively and confirm county ABAWD waiver status.

*This guide was compiled using information from the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, and publicly available state SNAP resources. It is informational only and does not constitute legal advice. Rules may change — always verify at [dwss.nv.gov](http://dwss.nv.gov) or [accessnevada.dwss.nv.gov](http://accessnevada.dwss.nv.gov) or by contacting your local office.*