



New Federal Changes to Non-Citizen SNAP Eligibility

What You Can Do and Resources Available

Federal rules regarding non-citizen SNAP eligibility have changed. All states, including Rhode Island, must implement these changes. New applicants and current households may be impacted. To be eligible, you must live in the U.S. and meet specific legal status requirements detailed below.

Eligibility Categories

Current customers and new applicants must fall into one of the legal statuses listed below in addition to meeting SNAP program rules in order to receive food assistance benefits

- U.S. Citizen or National
- Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) w/5 year residency*
- Cuban and Haitian Entrant (CHE)
- Compacts of Free Association (COFA) Citizen

** Some lawful permanent residents may qualify without a waiting period if they meet specific federal exceptions. Exemptions may apply based on disability, work history, or other qualifying exemption.*

Community Food Resources

These federal changes do not affect access to food pantries, soup kitchens, and other similar supports.

- Call United Way at 2-1-1
- Visit the RI Food Bank at rifoodbank.org

What You Can Do



Review DHS notices promptly

Carefully review any mail from DHS and respond to requests for information as soon as possible to help avoid benefit disruption.



Update status changes

Households are encouraged to update their case if they fall into one of the listed categories. However, customers are not required to report changes in immigration status unless DHS asks for verification as part of an eligibility review.

What Should I Know



- Submit updated documents through regular DHS channels such as the Customer Portal, HealthyRhode Mobile App, or via DHS drop box
- Food pantries remain accessible
- Mixed status households may have only one member impacted, not the entire household

Stay Informed

Visit staycovered.ri.gov/SNAP-Updates

