

What WIC staff should know about Applying for Food Stamps

Checklist for applying for Food Stamps.

- **Identification** for the person applying for Food Stamps. This could be a driver's license, work/school ID, Social Security card, birth certificate, or an ID from another benefit program.
- **Social Security Numbers** for all people applying for benefits. For families with some documented members and some undocumented members, the documented family members should apply. They will only be required to furnish their social security numbers, not those of the undocumented family members. The actual cards are not required, just the numbers.
- **Proof of immigration status for those applying for benefits:** An undocumented person can apply on behalf of citizen children. The parent should say that they are a "non-applicant". In that case, a birth certificate for a child born in the U.S. is sufficient and the food stamp worker may not ask for any immigration papers for the non-applicant parent. Legal Permanent Residents can bring a copy of their green card.
- **Proof of income :** For income earned from a job, bring the last month's pay stubs or a letter from the employer verifying monthly earnings. For income from benefit programs like CalWORKs, Social Security, or Unemployment, bring either a copy of the last check before it was cashed or a current notice from the program which shows that the case is still active.
- **Proof of certain expenses:** rent receipt or rental agreement, utility bill if any, current bank statement if any, receipt for child care expenses if any, receipts for medical expenses if a household member is disabled.

People should apply for Food Stamps right away, even if they don't have all the documentation. They can work on collecting rent receipts, bank statements, child care bills, etc. after they submit the application and provide proof of ID and Social Security numbers.

How long will it take to receive the actual food stamps?

Households with less than \$150 in monthly income and less than \$100 in cash/bank account are entitled to **expedited service** which means they **must receive the stamps within 3 calendar days**.

Other eligible households are entitled to their food stamps within 30 days of their application.