

USDA Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) Awards and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The information below is for the farmers and ranchers who applied for and received a one-time, lump-sum award from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the USDA Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP). DFAP was created to address the consequences of prior discrimination by USDA in USDA farm lending. This general information will help people who receive these USDA DFAP awards understand the potential impact of the money on SNAP benefits.

The USDA DFAP Award may affect your SNAP eligibility. Everyone's situation is different. Be sure to consult an attorney or advocate knowledgeable about SNAP in your state for advice.

See below for a list of resources.

What are SNAP benefits?

SNAP is a federal program that provides benefits to low-income households to help pay for food at local grocery stores. SNAP benefits are administered by state human service agencies. SNAP eligibility and program rules differ in each state.

How could my USDA DFAP award affect my SNAP benefits?

Your eligibility for SNAP depends on your household's income and assets/resources. The lump-sum award you receive from the USDA DFAP is not income, but a resource. If your total resources increase above the maximum allowed by SNAP, **you will no longer be eligible for SNAP**. But if you remain eligible, your DFAP award will not affect the amount of SNAP you receive.

When is my USDA DFAP award considered “income” for SNAP?

A one-time, lump-sum payment by the government, like the USDA DFAP award, is never considered income for SNAP purposes.

When is my USDA DFAP award considered a “resource?”

Any of the USDA DFAP award left over after the month you receive it is a resource. For example: if you receive an award of \$5,000 in June, and you spend \$1,000 in June, the remaining \$4,000 is a resource beginning in July and continuing each following month you have the money.

What are the SNAP resource limits in my state?

For most Oklahoma SNAP recipients, there are no resource limits. That means if you have DFAP award money remaining after the month it is received, it will not affect your eligibility.

There are resource limits for the following Oklahoma SNAP households. If your household may fall under one of these circumstances, you should contact Legal Aid for specific advice about how resource limits may apply to your SNAP benefits:

- If your household includes a sponsored noncitizen (a noncitizen for whom an affidavit of support was filed);
- If your household had a SNAP case closed because of lottery or gambling winnings;
- If you or someone in your household has been disqualified because of an intentional program violation;
- If the head of household has been disqualified for not meeting work requirements; or
- If you think someone in your household may be arrested for fleeing arrest or prosecution for a felony, or for violating their probation for a state or federal crime.

For these specific situations, the SNAP resource limit is \$2,750 for a household that does not include an elderly or disabled household member, and \$4,250 for a household that includes an elderly or disabled household member.

What can I do to avoid or minimize the impact of the USDA DFAP award on my SNAP benefits?

DO NOT GIVE THE MONEY AWAY. Giving away the money could make you ineligible for the SNAP program for up to one year.

Do I need to report the USDA DFAP award to the human services agency in my state?

Best practice is to report all significant income and resource changes within 10 days of the change. Keep all receipts and other documentation of how the funds were spent in case your state agency asks you to prove you no longer have the funds available to you.

Most Oklahoman SNAP recipients are not required to report the DFAP award because they are not subject to resource limits. But if you think you fall under the special rules described above (such as having a sponsored noncitizen living in the household), then you should report any money you have left over at the end of the month in which you receive the DFAP award. If the amount of money left over is above the resource limit, then you should call Legal Aid at 646-202-1681 to talk about ways that you are allowed to spend down the money while on SNAP.

How do I get information about my SNAP benefits?

Contact the Oklahoma Department of Human Services at 405-522-5050.

Where can I find more resources related to the impact of the USDA DFAP award on my SNAP benefits?

If you are looking for legal advice related to the USDA DFAP award and the potential impact on your benefits, you may qualify for free legal advice. Please call Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma at 646-202-1681 Monday through Thursday, 90 a.m. to 4 p.m. To learn more about how the USDA DFAP awards affect SSI, Medicaid and SNAP, visit www.LegalAidOK.org/usda-dfap/.

Additional resources and information are available at <https://www.nlada.org/USDA-DFAP/award-recipients>.

For general questions about your DFAP award, contact the DFAP Call Center at 1-800-721-0970.