



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT APPLYING FOR FOOD STAMPS

■ What Are Food Stamps?

Food Stamps are like money, but they can be used only to buy food for your family.

■ If You Are Undocumented But Your Children Were Born In The United States, Can You Get Food Stamps For Them?

Yes. Even though you cannot get Food Stamps for yourself, you may be able to get Food Stamps for your children if they were born in the United States. Persons born in the United States are United States citizens.

■ How Can You Get Food Stamps For Your Children?

You can apply for Food Stamps at your local Department of Social Services (DSS) office. Your children can get Food Stamps if your family does not have much money. If you do not speak English ask a friend, who does, to go with you.

■ If You Are Undocumented, Will You Be Reported To The INS If You Apply For Food Stamps For Your Children?

The Food Stamps worker only has to report you to the INS if you give her a document showing that you are in the country unlawfully. Also don't give DSS a false or invalid Social Security Number. Do not tell anyone that you or anyone in your house is undocumented.

■ If Your Household Includes Undocumented Immigrants, Your Children May Still Be Eligible To Receive Food Stamps If They Were Born In The U.S.

- Tell DSS who lives in your home. Be honest about who lives with you. Give everyone's name, including undocumented persons.
- DO NOT tell DSS that you or anyone else in your household is "illegal" or without immigration papers.

■ What to Tell DSS If You Are Undocumented:

- You do not want Food Stamps for yourself and you are applying only for your children.
- You will not provide information about your SSN, citizenship or immigration status. You do not have to explain why.
- You will provide information about your income. This can be check stubs, etc. If you can't get check stubs, you can provide a letter from your employer. If you don't work, you have to provide a proof of income: somebody in the household who is working. You do not need a SSN to verify your income. DSS CANNOT require that you have a SSN. DSS can require the SSNs of the children you're applying for.

■ Everyone In Your Family Is Undocumented; Can They Get Any Help With Food?

Even if you or other undocumented family members can't get Food Stamps, you can still get school lunch and breakfast, WIC, and go to soup kitchens and community food pantries.

To obtain information of your local DSS office, call the
Care Line, at 1-800-662-7030
