

EBT Restaurant Meals Program

For the Elderly, Disabled, and Homeless

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

May 2006



Restaurant Meals Program Facts

There are more than 4,000 elderly, disabled, or homeless people who are receiving food stamp benefits in Sacramento County.

Many area restaurants have been approved by the Food and Nutrition Service (USDA) to participate in the Restaurant Meals Program.

Prior to ordering a meal from an approved restaurant, clients will have to show their EBT card identifying them as eligible participants in the program.

If you would like more information about this program, please contact your worker.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please return the enclosed Authorization Form in the postage paid envelope.

For more information, go to www.dhweb.sacounty.net.

Food Stamps for Restaurant Meals Sacramento County's Program

In 2004, the State approved Food Stamp regulations that allowed elderly, disabled, and homeless households to use food stamp benefits to buy prepared restaurant meals. Sacramento County will implement this program effective May 1, 2006.

CLIENT BENEFITS

- You can use your Food Stamp Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to purchase meals at approved restaurants. You may still go to the grocery store and purchase groceries.
- You will continue to receive your monthly benefits as you do now. This program change will not affect your benefits in any way.
- If you are elderly and/or disabled, you may have difficulties with getting around, making it hard to buy and prepare your meals. Restaurant meals are an additional affordable and nutritious choice.
- If you are homeless, you may not have storage or cooking facilities, so prepared food increases your choices and may improve nutrition.
- If you are homeless and work, you often spend cash for meals during the workday, or when commuting. And because of work schedules, you may have less access to meal providers such as Loaves & Fishes, Union Gospel Mission, Meals on Wheels, and Salvation Army.

ELIGIBILITY

- If you are an elderly, disabled or homeless client of the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance, you qualify for this program. In fact, your entire household may be eligible to participate.

PROCESS

- If you think you are eligible, please contact your worker who will arrange for your EBT card to be encoded showing you are eligible for the program. (Caution: if you have an authorized representative they will also be able to use your card for a restaurant meal.)
- You will have to show your EBT card every time you visit an approved restaurant prior to ordering your meal so they can verify you are eligible.
- To identify an approved restaurant, look for the sign stating **EBT Cards Accepted Here.**

How to use your EBT card at restaurants

- Households where at least one person is elderly, disabled, or homeless can use their Food Stamp EBT card to purchase prepared food from approved restaurants.
- Present your EBT card prior to ordering your meal so they can verify you are eligible.
- They will run your card through their Point of Sale device (ATM-like machines), verify eligibility, and then you may enjoy your meal.