



# More Food Stamp/SNAP Benefits for Families with Child Care Expenses

## For all low-income families:

- If you pay expenses for the care of **any child under 18 or disabled adult**, your family can receive increased SNAP benefits (formerly called “food stamps”)!
- Every **\$3** you spend on childcare may increase your SNAP benefits by **\$1** – up to the maximum SNAP amount for your household!
- You can claim any dependent care costs you incur when -
  - You are working, or are looking for a job
  - You are attending school or work-related training
  - You are doing volunteer work or another activity required by the SNAP Employment/Training (E&T) Program

## Q. What can you claim as expenses?

<b>Child or Adult Care...</b>	All payments you are responsible for, including co-payments, for a child or disabled adult
<b>Out-of-School Activities for any child under 18...</b>	Any supervised activity, including before and after school, school vacation, summer camps, YMCA, and Boys/Girls Club fees
<b>Mileage (at 55.5 cents per mile for 2011)...</b>	If you drive your child to/from the child care, or camp or school program
<b>Public Transportation Costs...</b>	If you or your child takes a bus, subway, or train to/from the child care, or camp or school program

## Q. Is there a limit or cap on the expenses I can claim?

- **NO.** You can **claim the full amount** of costs you pay.

*For example: A mother with two children who earns \$1800/month before taxes and pays \$600 unheated rent will get **\$274** in SNAP. If she pays \$300/month in child care and related travel, her SNAP will go up to **\$364/month**.*

## Q. How do I claim child care expenses?

- You can **self declare** these expenses. You can write it on your application or recertification form, or give your DTA worker a signed statement. DTA should ask for proofs *only if* the information you provide is questionable. A sample form is found on the back of this sheet.

## Self-Declaration of Child Care Costs for Food Stamp/SNAP Benefits

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency ID: \_\_\_\_\_ (if known)

Address where you live: \_\_\_\_\_

### Children needing child care

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Age Name Age

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Age Name Age

(List additional children in care on another paper.)

### My child care costs: (This includes direct care, co-pays, camps, other payments for care) (Please mark one)

I pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_/day OR \$ \_\_\_\_\_/week

### My transportation costs: (This includes travel to and from the child care, camp, or school programs)

#### 1. By car (DTA allows \$.55.5 cents per mile if you use your car)

I drive \_\_\_\_\_ miles round trip, for \_\_\_\_\_ days per week

#### 2. By public transportation (Please mark one)

I pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_/day OR \$ \_\_\_\_\_/week

### ► Your signature:

I swear that the above information about my monthly child care costs is true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

► You can **self-declare** child care expenses on your SNAP application or recertification form, or you can use this form to **self-declare** costs. You have a right to claim these costs if you need child care to go to work, a training program or look for work. You do not need to provide a statement from your child care provider unless the information you provide is questionable.

You can also claim the cost of care needed for a **disabled adult** while you work, look for work or go to school. This includes adult day care services and transportation costs, or paying someone to provide care in your home for a disabled adult household member.