

Myths & Facts: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth SNAP Eligibility

Myth: Only adults, people over the age of 18, are eligible to receive SNAP benefits.

Fact : **People under the age of 18 can apply for SNAP benefits.**

Myth: A school ID is not an acceptable form of identification for the SNAP application.

Fact: **A school ID card is an acceptable form of identification, though no photo ID is required to apply, only proof of identity.**

Myth: A person must have a permanent address to apply for SNAP.

Fact: **No one can be denied SNAP benefits due to not having an address.**

Myth: People under the age of 18 can only receive SNAP through their parent or guardian, or with a parent or guardian's signature.

Fact: **Unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 can apply for SNAP without a parent or guardian's signature.**

Myth: If an unaccompanied youth's parent or guardian is already receiving SNAP, that youth is not eligible independently.

Fact: **SNAP eligibility is based on household income, not family income, and if a youth is not living in that household and not receiving food from the parent or guardian, they are eligible independently.**

Myth: Youth living temporarily with another household must apply for SNAP as a part of that household.

Fact: **Youth are considered a part of the household only if they prepare food with other residents, or if they are provided food by other residents.**

A few tips...

- **Collaborate** and **share** this information with individuals and organizations that work with homeless youth
- **Familiarize** yourself with the Texas SNAP application (yourtexasbenefits.com)
- **Consider** each youth's case individually
- **Learn** more about federal and state policy around SNAP eligibility
- **Be aware** of the barriers unaccompanied youth experience in accessing SNAP, and **create** ways to address them
- **Help** unaccompanied youth understand the positive impact of SNAP benefits

For additional resources visit:

www.naehcy.org

<http://www.utdanacenter.org/theo/>

www.thn.org

www.fns.usda.gov/SNAP



References

- Jones, T., Julianelle, P., & Smith, C. (2014). Food assistance for unaccompanied homeless youth. [PowerPoint Slides].
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. (2011). Access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) for unaccompanied youth.