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

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**References**
