

SNAP Excess Medical Expense Deduction

What is SNAP?

SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The program used to be called Food Stamps. If you are eligible for SNAP, you get money on a card to buy groceries for yourself and your family.

How much SNAP can I get each month?

The amount of SNAP you can get is based on your income, the number of people in your household, certain expenses, and the SNAP budget that is set by the federal government each year. There is a maximum amount of SNAP based on your household size.

Your county Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) will process your SNAP application and complete the budget to determine the amount of your monthly SNAP benefit. They will ask you to give them verification of expenses like your rent, utilities, childcare costs and medical expenses. These are all costs that can increase the amount of SNAP you get.

Who can get a SNAP deduction for their medical expenses?

People aged 60 years or older, people who receive SSI, SSD or VA disability benefits, those in need of aid and attendance, and certain spouses/children of deceased veterans.

How does the excess medical expense deduction work?

As part of your SNAP budget, JFS will deduct from your income all non-reimbursable, eligible medical expenses over \$35.00.

What are allowable medical expense deductions?

This is a list of categories that may be allowed as a deduction. Expenses for a special diet are NOT an allowable medical expense.

- Expenses for medical and dental care, includes mental health
- Hospital expenses
- Medicare premiums, some health and hospitalization insurance policy premiums
- Prescription drug costs
- Over-the-counter drugs and medical supplies approved by a qualified medical professional
- Service animal costs
- Eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids, prosthetics
- Telephone accommodations (amplifiers, telephone typewriters)
- Transportation and lodging costs if they are related to medical care
- Costs related to having an in-home health aide

How will JFS decide whether to deduct my medical expenses?

You should tell JFS about your medical expenses when you apply for SNAP. If you are already receiving SNAP, and your medical expenses are not currently being used in your budget, you should contact JFS and let them know that you want to submit verifications of your expenses. You can turn in receipts or other proof of payment. If you are having trouble getting proof that you pay for a certain medical expense, you can ask JFS for help in getting verifications of the expense.

What can I do if JFS does not count my medical expenses in my SNAP budget?

Not all medical expenses will meet the requirements to be included in your SNAP budget. However, if you think the JFS decision not to include your expenses is wrong, you have the right to appeal it and have a hearing. When you get the notice of your SNAP amount from JFS, the notice should contain your SNAP budget. If JFS did not include your medical expenses as deductions, you can follow the instructions in the notice to ask for a state hearing.

**If you have questions or need legal assistance,
please call the Legal Aid line at (513) 241-9400.**