

## What Is The Food Assistance Program?

The Food Assistance Program helps people with little or no income buy food. Food Assistance benefits are not cash. They come on a plastic card that is used like a bank card to buy food.

## How Can I Get Food Assistance Benefits?

- Your gross income (before taxes) must be under the gross income limit for your household size.
- Most households must meet gross income and net income guidelines.
- If your household has a person who is age 60 or older or who is disabled, you only need to meet the net income limit.
- If everyone in your household receives SSI or TANF (Temporary Assistance For Needy Families), you do not need to meet any of the income limits.



## How Much Will I Receive If I Am Eligible?

The amount of your food assistance benefits is determined by the amount of your income. As your income goes up, your food assistance benefits go down.



## When Do My Food Assistance Benefits Expire?

Recipients can save food assistance benefits for up to one (1) year. There are no requirements to spend them every month.

## What Else Do I Qualify For?

When you get food assistance, you may qualify for:

- A credit on your telephone bill each month through the Lifeline Program.
- A discount on telephone hook-up/connection fees through the Linkup Program.
- A check from the Low Income Energy Assistance Payment each February. This is based on your food stamp participation in September.
- A once yearly or semi-annual review of your situation, which you may be able to conduct over the telephone or through the mail.



**For Further Information On Services Call  
(828) 250-5500**

## DSS Mission

To partner with individuals, families, and communities to strengthen their efforts toward Independence, Permanence, and Safety.

## Food Assistance Mission

To provide timely and accurate public assistance ( Food Assistance) to all who wish to apply while at the same time facilitating personal responsibility on the part of the recipient to enable self-sufficiency and separation from public assistance.

Visit our website at:  
[www.buncombecounty.org/  
governing/depts/dss/economics](http://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/dss/economics)

## How Do I Apply?

If you or someone you know is interested in the program, call (828) 250-5500 or visit DSS to fill out an application.

An Income Maintenance Caseworker will help you by taking and processing your application to determine if you meet the resource and income guidelines.

If you are unable to come yourself, you may have a friend or relative apply for you.

## What Do I Need To Bring With Me To Apply?

- Identification
- Social Security Numbers
- Proof of Your Income
- Rent or Mortgage Receipts
- Utility Bills
- Child Care Receipts

***Our work is guided by professional ethics and values that are designed to safeguard your privacy and confidentiality. If you have any concerns about how you have been treated, contact your worker's supervisor. If you are unsure who to contact, please call the Director's office at (828) 250-5587.***

Buncombe County Government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap or disability in admission or access to its treatment or employment in its services, programs and activities in compliance with applicable federal and state laws.

# Economic Services Division

## Food and Nutrition Services



## Buncombe County Department of Social Services

40 Coxe Avenue  
P.O. Box 7408  
Asheville, NC 28802

**Hours of Operation**  
**Monday - Friday**  
**8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Phone: (828) 250-5500**  
**Fax: (828) 250-5970**