

## How much income can we have?

Gross income means income before any deductions. *Net* income means gross income after deductions. For October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017, the monthly income guidelines are:

People in Household	Gross Monthly Income	Net Monthly Income
1	\$1,287	\$ 990
2	1,736	1,335
3	2,184	1,680
4	2,633	2,025
5	3,081	2,370
6	3,530	2,715
7	3,980	3,061
8	4,430	3,408
More people	\$ 451	\$ 347

To be eligible, a household's monthly income must be within the above amounts for its size.

### Exceptions:

- Households with an elderly (age 60 or over) or disabled person do not have to meet gross income guidelines.
- If everyone gets SSI or FIP, the household does not have to meet the gross or net monthly income guidelines.
- Some households that do not meet the above income guidelines might be eligible if monthly income is not more than the amount below (160% of the federal poverty level).

People in Household	Monthly Income 160% of Federal Poverty Level
1	\$1,584
2	2,136
3	2,688
4	3,240
5	3,792
6	4,344
7	4,898
8	5,453
More people	\$ 556

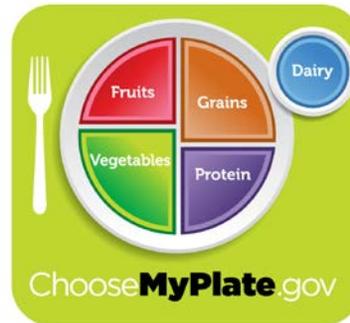
## What are the allowable deductions?

To determine how much you can get, we use the following deductions:

- ▲ 20 percent of earned income;
- ▲ A standard deduction of \$157 or more;
- ▲ Medical expenses over \$35 a month for elderly (age 60 or over) or disabled persons;
- ▲ Certain dependent-care costs when needed for training, education, or work;
- ▲ Legally owed child support; and
- ▲ A percentage of shelter costs.

## Choose foods to promote a healthy future at every stage of life.

- ▲ Food Assistance helps you to be able to buy and eat a variety of foods.
- ▲ Let the Plate guide your food choices.



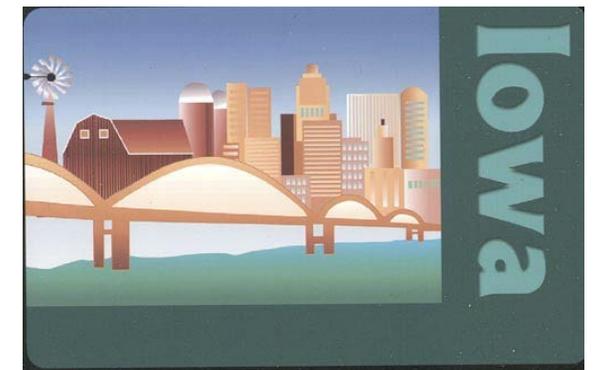
- ▲ Aim for a healthy weight.
- ▲ Be physically active each day – at least 30 minutes for adults and 60 minutes for children.
- ▲ Choose a variety of grains (especially whole grains), fruits, and vegetables daily.

Food Assistance is a program under the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service.

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



# Food Assistance Makes Iowa Stronger



## What is Food Assistance?

The program helps people with little or no income to buy food for a healthy diet.

There is enough Food Assistance for everyone who is eligible.

Food Assistance helps your local economy. The Food Assistance spent in local grocery stores helps to provide jobs for people.

## How do I get Food Assistance?

You must fill out a Food Assistance application and turn it in to your Department of Human Services office. You can call toll free 1-877-DHS-5678 to find out where your Department of Human Services office is located. You may also apply online at <https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/oasis/>.

You will be given an appointment for an interview. You will be asked to give us some things like ID, pay stubs for people in your household who work, and child-support orders.



## Will I have to get a social security number?

You can choose to give us the Social Security Number of each person in your household. We can give Food Assistance only to the people who give us their Social Security Number.

You don't have to give us the Social Security Number for the people you do not want Food Assistance for.

## Can legal noncitizens get Food Assistance?

Many can get Food Assistance. Even if you can't, your family members born in this country can.

Getting Food Assistance won't stop you if you want to become a citizen.

## Can I get help if I'm not working?

If you can work, you must not quit a job unless you have a good reason. In some areas of the state, we have a program that can help you search for a job or get training.

If you can't work because of a mental or physical reason, tell your Food Assistance worker.

## How many assets can we have?

Most households do not have to meet an asset test. If you do have to meet an asset test, your home and the value of at least one vehicle will not count.

## If my household is eligible, how much will we get?

For October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017, the table below shows the most you could get if you have no income. As your income goes up, the amount of Food Assistance you will get goes down.

People in Household	Maximum Monthly Allotment
1	\$ 194
2	357
3	511
4	649
5	771
6	925
7	1,022
8	1,169
More people	\$146 for each

## Is Food Assistance cash?

Food Assistance comes through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). You use a plastic EBT swipe card to buy food. Once your eligible food items have been totaled at the cash register, you will pass your EBT card through a point-of-sale (POS) terminal in the check out line. The cost of the food you purchase is subtracted from the amount in your Food Assistance EBT account.

## What if I have more questions?

Please call your local Department of Human Services office. If you don't know where the office is, call the toll-free number, 1-877-DHS-5678 to find out.

You can also visit "Food Assistance" on Iowa's web site at <http://dhs.iowa.gov/>