

**State of Alabama**  
**Department of Human Resources**  
**Food Assistance Application**

<b>AGENCY USE ONLY:</b>	
<b>Expedite Screening:</b> Entitled ____ Yes ____ No Screener Signature and Date _____ FS Case Number _____ Check digit ____ Processing standard ____ Name _____ IEVS Function _____ PA Case No. _____ Appointment Date _____ Time _____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; min-height: 60px;">Date Received</div>

You have the right to file an application the same day you contact the Food Assistance Office. **To file an application, you need only complete your name, address, sign, and turn this form into the county Food Assistance Office where you live.** We will interview you to decide if you are eligible. If eligible, you will receive benefits from the date we received your signed application.

<b>YOUR NAME (First, Middle, Last)</b>		<b>Birth date (Month, Day, Year)</b>		<b>Social Security Number**</b>
				(Applicants Only)
<b>Mailing Address</b>		<b>Street Address, if different</b>		
		<b>Food Assistance Case Number</b>		
<b>City</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Daytime Phone</b>

**Expedited Services**

**You may get food assistance benefits within 7 calendar days if your food assistance household has less than \$150 in monthly gross income and liquid resources (cash, checking or savings accounts) of \$100 or less; or your rent/mortgage and utilities are more than your household's combined monthly income and liquid resources; or a member of your household is a migrant or seasonal farm worker.**

1. How much money do the members of your household have in cash or in a bank account? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the **total** amount of income you expect your household to receive this month? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is your **current** monthly rent/mortgage payment? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Utilities other than phone? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is anyone in your household a migrant or seasonal farm worker? Yes No  
 If yes, answer these questions: Did all of your household income stop recently? Yes No  
 Does anyone in your household expect to receive income from a new source this month? Yes No  
 If yes, how much? \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you or anyone in your household received or do you expect to receive Food Assistance benefits from any other county in Alabama or any other state this month?**  Yes Where \_\_\_\_\_  No

**Did anyone in your household receive food assistance last month?**  Yes  No

**In accordance with Federal law and U. S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

**Penalty Warnings, Perjury Statement and Signature**

**When your household receives food assistance benefits, you must follow all the rules. You must provide true and complete information about everyone in your household and you must provide documents to prove what you say if you are asked to by the worker. Any member who breaks any of the rules on purpose can be barred from the Food Assistance Program for one year to permanently, fined up to \$250,000, imprisoned up to 20 years or both. S/he may also be subject to prosecution under other applicable federal and state laws. There are also penalties if any household member is found guilty of using food assistance benefits to purchase illegal drugs or firearms.**

- ◆ Do not trade or sell food assistance benefits or EBT cards.
- ◆ Do not use someone else's food assistance benefits, identification card or EBT card for your household.
- ◆ Do not give false information or hide information to get or continue to get food assistance benefits.

**I certify under penalty of perjury that my answers to all questions about each household member, including those about citizenship or alien status, are correct and complete.**

**Household member signature or mark (X):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness if signed by mark:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## Household Members

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please print clearly. Please list everyone who lives in your household and answer all questions for each household member that you are asking to get food assistance benefits. You only have to give social security numbers (SSN) and citizenship/immigration information for those household members that you are asking for food assistance benefits. You will have to give information such as income for household members who are not seeking benefits to determine if the persons for whom you are applying are eligible to receive benefits. (Use another sheet of paper to add members if there is not enough spaces below.) Some of the things you should bring to your interview include: **proof of identity (driver's license, birth certificate), proof of income (check stubs, award letter, child support statement, signed statement from person that gives you money), and proof of expenses (rent receipts, mortgage, property tax, house insurance premium, day care receipts, child support orders and receipts, and medical bills for disabled and aging members). If you have expenses that you do not report and/or provide proof of, you will not receive the deduction for the expense.** We will tell you what we need to finish your application during your interview.

Name First, Middle, Last	Social Security Number** (SSN)	Date of Birth Month Day Year	Relation to you	Working	In school	Sex M/F	Ethnicity * Hispanic/ Latino or Non-Hispanic HISP    NON		Race * White Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander American Indian or Alaskan Native	U.S. *** Citizen
				Yes or No	Yes or No		(Optional)			(Optional)
	(Applicants Only)						(Optional)			(Applicants Only)
			Self							

\*This information is voluntary. List all races that apply only if the person is asking for benefits. Your benefits will not be affected if you don't answer the ethnicity or race items (the agency will choose for you if you do not answer). Giving us this information will help ensure program benefits are distributed without regard to race, color, or national origin.

\*\*Providing a SSN for each household member is voluntary. However, failure to provide a SSN for each household member will result in disqualification of that member.

\*\*\*Providing citizenship/immigration information is voluntary. Failure to provide this information will result in ineligibility (no benefits) for these members.

**List below any other people who live in the same house with you but you do not want included in your food assistance household because they do not purchase and prepare food with you. (Use another sheet of paper to add members if there is not enough space for everyone here.)**

Name	Age	Relation to you	Does this person give you or anyone listed above any money? YES or NO. If Yes, reason?	Does this person pay any part of the household bills? YES or NO. If Yes, reason?

### Authorized Representative

You may appoint someone outside your household to act for your household, to make an application and to be interviewed. This person should know your household's situation well enough to give any information needed to determine your eligibility for food assistance. You are still responsible for the information that anyone acting as your authorized representative gives, including any information that may be incorrect. If you want to appoint someone for this, write his/her name here: \_\_\_\_\_

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FOOD ASSISTANCE

You have the right to have your application acted on within **thirty days** without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin, age, handicap or political belief. You have the right to know why your application is denied, or your benefits reduced or terminated. You have the right to request a conference or fair hearing either orally or in writing if you are not satisfied with any decision of the county department. You have the right to be represented by any person you choose. You have the right to examine your food assistance case file in relation to any hearing you may have.

You have the right to **confidentiality**. The use or disclosure of information will be made only for certain limited purposes allowed under State and Federal laws and regulations. Information may also be disclosed to law enforcement officials for the purpose of apprehending persons fleeing to avoid the law.

The information provided in connection with this application will be subject to verification by Federal, State and local officials to determine if such information is true. If any information is found to be untrue or incorrect, food assistance benefits may be denied to the applicant and the applicant may be subject to **criminal prosecution for knowingly providing incorrect information**. Any person authorized to act on behalf of the household may be barred from participation as a representative for up to one year or may be subject to fines and/or prosecution if s/he breaks any rules on purpose.

If a food assistance claim arises against your household, the information on this application, including all social security numbers, may be referred to Federal and State agencies, as well as private claims collection agencies, for claims collection action.

**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS:** The collection of a Social Security Number (SSN) for each household member is authorized under the Food & Nutrition Act of 2008 as amended by P.L. 96-58 (7 U.S. C.2025F). The Social Security Number will be used in the administration of the Food Assistance Program to check the identity of household members to prevent duplicate participation and to facilitate making changes. Your SSN will also be used in computer matching and program reviews or audits to make sure your household is eligible for food assistance. This may result in criminal or civil administrative claims against persons fraudulently participating in the Food Assistance Program. **Providing a SSN for each household member is voluntary. However, failure to provide a SSN for each household member will result in disqualification of that member. You will still have to give information such as income for this member.**

**VERIFICATION:** You may have to provide documents to prove what you have stated on the application. If you are unable to provide proof, **you may request help from your worker**. The information given on this application will be checked by using the State Income and Eligibility Verification System, other computer matching systems, program reviews and audits. This includes such information as receipt of Social Security benefits, Unemployment benefits, unearned income such as interest and dividends, and wages from employment. When discrepancies are found, verification of this information may be obtained through contact with a third party such as employers, claims representatives or financial institutions. This information may affect your eligibility and level of benefits. In addition, any information given may also be checked by other Federal Aid Programs and Federally Aided State Programs such as school lunch, Family Assistance, and Medicaid. **If you give false information on purpose, legal or administrative action may be taken against you. You may have to repay food assistance benefits that you receive to which you are not entitled.**

Some elderly and/or disabled household members are allowed certain medical expenses as a deduction if these expenses are reported and proof of the expense is provided to us. Allowable medical expenses include expenses such as the following: prescription drugs, hospital and nursing home bills, doctor, dentist, or other health care professional visits, over the counter medication prescribed by a doctor, Medicare premium, hospital insurance premium, insurance for prescription drug coverage, transportation expenses for travel to doctors, hospitals, drugstores such as amount charged for transportation or for the number of miles driven in your personal vehicle, medical appliances or equipment such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial limbs, eye glasses, contact lenses, dentures, etc., attendant care or homemaker services, service animal expenses such as animal food and veterinary care.

**CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION STATUS:** Only U. S. citizens and eligible immigrants may participate in the Food Assistance Program. Any household member who is not a citizen or permanent resident alien may be left out of your food assistance household. **Providing citizenship/immigration information is voluntary. Failure to provide this information will result in ineligibility (no benefits) for these members. You will still have to give information such as income for this member.** The Food Assistance Division will check with U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) on all non-citizens that you are asking to get food assistance benefits. We will not check on the non-citizens you choose not to include in your food assistance household.

You will be ineligible for benefits if you refuse to cooperate in completing the application process or in subsequent reviews of eligibility including reviews resulting from reported changes, recertification, or as a part of a State or Federal Quality Control Review.

Your signature on the application will serve as authorization for State and Federal Quality Control Reviewers to verify your household circumstances for food assistance eligibility purposes.

You or a household member may be disqualified from receiving food assistance for failure to cooperate with work registration requirements.

You or any member of your household may be disqualified from receiving benefits if you or the member voluntarily quits a job or reduces the number of hours worked without good cause.

Your household will not receive an increase in food assistance benefits if anyone in the household fails to comply with the requirements of another income based (means tested) program such as Family Assistance.

You are not to use food assistance benefits to buy ineligible items such as alcoholic drinks or tobacco.

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

### Food Assistance Program Summarized Eligibility Requirements

Households applying for or receiving food assistance benefits must meet all applicable eligibility requirements based on food assistance policies. Time limits and requirements of other programs do not affect a household's eligibility for food assistance benefits. A household may still qualify for food assistance benefits even if eligibility ends in another program. Households must cooperate with the agency in establishing eligibility for food assistance. Failure to meet these requirements can result in a denial or termination of the food assistance case.

#### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. **Household Members.** The food assistance household is composed of individuals who live together and purchase and prepare their meals together for home consumption. Certain individuals, such as spouses and children under age 22, must be included in one food assistance household regardless of their method of buying food and preparing meals.
2. **Strikers.** Households with striking members shall be ineligible to participate in the Food Assistance Program, unless the household was eligible for benefits the day before the strike and is otherwise eligible at the time of application. However, the household shall not receive an increased allotment as a result of a decrease in income of the striking household member(s).
3. **Citizenship and Alien Status.** Only U.S. citizens and eligible aliens may participate in the Food Assistance Program. Any household member who is not a citizen or permanent resident alien may be left out of your food assistance household. Providing citizenship/immigration information is voluntary. The Food Assistance Division will check with the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) only for those household members that you are asking for food assistance benefits. We will not check on the non-citizens you do not include in your food assistance household but their income may count in determining the eligibility and food assistance allotment for the other people included in the food assistance household. Failure to provide this information will result in ineligibility (no benefits) for these members.
4. **Social Security Numbers.** The Social Security Number is used in computer matching and program reviews or audits to make sure the household is eligible for the food assistance benefits it receives. The SSN will be used to check the identity of household members to prevent duplicate participation and to facilitate making changes. Providing a social security number for each household member is voluntary. However, failure to provide a SSN for each household member will result in disqualification of that member. You will still have to give information such as income for this member.

The household must furnish a Social Security Number for each household member that you are asking for food assistance benefits. If a household member does not have a number, s/he must apply for one.

5. **Residence.** Households must apply for food assistance in the county in which they live. They cannot receive food assistance in more than one county in a month.
6. **Work Requirements.** Unless otherwise exempt, each household member must be registered for work. Failure to cooperate with the work requirements may result in an individual being disqualified from participation in the Food Assistance Program.

An individual may be disqualified from participation in the program if s/he voluntarily quits a job or reduces the number of hours s/he works without good cause.

Unless exempt, certain food assistance recipients (between the ages of 18-50) who are able bodied and have no dependents are eligible to receive food assistance for only 3 months in a 36 month period if s/he is not working or participating in a work and training program for at least 20 hours a week. Individuals are exempt from this provision during the time they are medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment, or pregnant; parent or other household member with responsibility for a dependent child in the home under the age of 18 or physically or mentally disabled; participating and complying with work registration requirements of JOBS or UCB; caring for an incapacitated person; a student at least half-time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education; participating in an alcohol/drug treatment program.

## FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

7. **Income.** Income limits vary according to the household size. Households that contain no elderly or disabled individuals must meet both the gross (income before deduction) and the net income (income after allowable deductions) limits. Households that contain an elderly (age 60 or over) individual or a disabled individual must meet only the net income limits. See table below for both the net and gross income limits according to household size. Income includes wages, salaries, commissions, social security benefits, SSI, veteran's benefits, child support, contributions, unemployment compensation, etc.

Monthly Income Eligibility Limits Effective 10/1/2012 -- 9/30/2013

Household Size	Gross Income Limits	Net Income Limits
1	\$1,211	\$ 931
2	\$1,640	\$1,261
3	\$2,069	\$1,591
4	\$2,498	\$1,921
5	\$2,927	\$2,251
6	\$3,356	\$2,581
7	\$3,785	\$2,911
8	\$4,214	\$3,241
Each Additional Member	\$429	\$330

8. **Deductions.** Only the following are allowable deductions for food assistance:
- **Standard Deduction.** The standard deduction will vary according to household size. The minimum amount for household sizes 1 through 3 is \$149.00. It is \$160 for a household size of 4. It is \$187 for a household size of 5. The maximum amount allowed is \$214 for a household of six and above.
  - **Earned Income Deduction.** This deduction is 20% of the gross earned income.
  - **Self-Employment Deduction.** Households with self-employment income are entitled to a standard deduction of 40% of the gross proceeds from the self-employment income as a cost of doing business.
  - **Medical Deduction.** Elderly and/or disabled individuals may be entitled to a medical deduction for any verified nonreimbursable medical expense they incur during the certification period in excess of \$35 per month, if reported during the certification period in which they are incurred.
  - **Dependent Care.** The costs incurred for the care of a child or other dependent in order for a household member to work, seek employment, attend training, or pursue education that is preparatory for employment.
  - **Child Support.** Legally obligated child support paid by a household member to or for a nonhousehold member.
  - **Shelter Costs.** These costs include rent, mortgage, property taxes, insurance on the structure, utilities, etc.
9. **Resources.** Most households are not subject to a resource limit. The maximum allowable resource limits for households that contain a disqualified member shall not exceed \$2000 (\$3250 for households containing an elderly or disabled member). Resources include cash on hand, bank accounts, stocks, savings bonds, etc.

## OTHER

10. **Application Processing.** The application process includes completing an application, filing the form in the county in which the household lives, being interviewed, and having certain information verified. The application interview may be with a group of other applicants.

Households that meet the following criteria will have their application acted on within 7 calendar days: households with less than \$150 in monthly gross income and their liquid resources, such as cash or checking/savings' accounts are less than \$100; the household's monthly rent/mortgage and utilities are more than the household's gross monthly income and liquid resources; the household is a destitute migrant or seasonal farmworker with less than \$100 in liquid resources.

All other households shall have their application acted upon within 30 days from the date they apply.

11. **Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information.** All information given to the Department is confidential and any use or disclosure will be made only for certain limited purposes allowed under State or Federal laws and regulations. Such purposes include, but are not limited to, establishing eligibility, determining benefit amount and providing services to applicants and recipients. Information about how long you have received food assistance will be released to the State Employment Service for purposes of qualifying your employer for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC).
12. **Allotment Amounts.** The amount of food assistance a household actually receives depends on the number of people in the food assistance household and the amount of their net income. See table below for the maximum food assistance allotments by household size.

Maximum Monthly Allotments Effective 10/01/2012

Household Size	Maximum Food Assistance Allotment
1	\$200
2	\$367
3	\$526
4	\$668
5	\$793
6	\$952
7	\$1052
8	\$1202
Each Additional Person	\$150

13. **Authorized Representative.** The head of household, spouse, or other responsible household member may designate an authorized representative to act on behalf of the household. This person may apply for benefits, obtain the benefits and/or use the benefits for the food assistance household.
14. **Simplified Reporting.** Some households have to report their household situation semi-annually on a six-month report form. These households have to report on a six-month basis regardless of whether there have been any changes in their situation.
15. **Fair Hearings.** A household not satisfied with agency action affecting its participation in the Food Assistance Program has the right to request a fair hearing within 90 days of the action being appealed. The request may be made orally or in writing to the County Department of Human Resources, Food Assistance Office or to the Department of Human Resources, Food Assistance Division, S. Gordon Persons Building, 50 Ripley Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4000, telephone (334) 242-1700. The household's case may be presented by a household member or a representative, such as a legal counsel, a relative, a friend or other spokesperson. Free legal counsel may be available through Legal Services Alabama, toll free 866-456-4995.

16. **Ineligible Individuals.** The following individuals are ineligible to receive food assistance:
- Anyone who is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or confinement after a felony conviction under the law.
  - Anyone in violation of his/her parole/probation.
  - Anyone found guilty by a court of using food assistance benefits to buy firearms, ammunition, or explosives. These individuals are permanently disqualified from receiving food assistance benefits.
  - Anyone using food assistance benefits to buy illegal drugs may be disqualified from receiving food assistance from 2 years to permanently.
  - Anyone convicted of a Federal or State felony that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance. These individuals are permanently disqualified from receiving food assistance benefits.
  - Anyone found guilty by a court of selling food assistance benefits of \$500 or more. These individuals are permanently disqualified from receiving food assistance.
  - Anyone who misrepresents his identity or residence in order to receive multiple food assistance benefits simultaneously. These individuals are ineligible to receive food assistance benefits for 10 years from the date of conviction.
  - Anyone physically and mentally fit between the ages of 18 and 50 enrolled in an institution of higher education, who does not meet certain eligible student criteria.
  - Anyone who does not meet citizenship or alien status requirements.
  - Anyone who refuses or fails without good cause to provide a social security number.
  - Anyone disqualified for not complying with work requirements. This includes voluntarily quitting a job or reducing the number of hours worked without good cause.
  - Anyone disqualified for violating program regulations.
17. **Claims & Trafficking.** Households must report correct information about their situation. Households must use their benefits to buy eligible food for their personal use. There are penalties that can be applied to the household including a requirement to repay benefits received incorrectly. If a household member intentionally provides false information, sells or tries to sell or trade benefits, buys ineligible items or gives away or sells an EBT card, there are other penalties that can be applied including disqualification from the program from one year to permanent and prosecution in court.
18. **Voter Registration.** If you are not registered to vote where you live now, you may register to vote during the Food Assistance application process. We can help you with the application or you may choose to fill out the application in private. Your decision to register or decline to register to vote does not affect the decision about your Food Assistance application or any benefits you might receive. If you believe that someone has interfered with your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your own political party or other political preference, you may file a complaint with the Secretary of State, Alabama State Capitol, 600 Dexter Avenue Suite E-210, Montgomery, AL 36130.

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