

USDA DFAP Awards and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Information for Georgia

The information below is for the farmers and ranchers who applied for and received one-time, lump-sum awards from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the USDA Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP). DFAP was created to address the consequences of prior discrimination by USDA in USDA farm lending. This general information will help people who receive these USDA DFAP awards understand the potential impact of the money on SNAP benefits.

**THE USDA DFAP AWARD MAY AFFECT YOUR SNAP ELIGIBILITY.
EVERYONE’S SITUATION IS DIFFERENT. BE SURE TO CONSULT AN ATTORNEY OR
ADVOCATE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT SNAP IN YOUR STATE FOR SPECIFIC ADVICE.
See below for a list of resources.**

What are SNAP benefits?

SNAP is a federal program that provides benefits to low-income households to help pay for food at local grocery stores. SNAP benefits are administered by state human service agencies. SNAP eligibility and program rules differ in each state.

How could my USDA DFAP award affect my SNAP benefits?

Your eligibility for SNAP depends on your household’s income. The lump sum award you receive from the USDA DFAP is not income.

When is my USDA DFAP award considered “income” for SNAP?

A one-time, lump-sum payment by the government, like the USDA DFAP award, is never considered income for SNAP purposes.

Do I need to report the USDA DFAP award to the human services agency in my state?

You are required to report changes in income to the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) within 10 days of the change either at your local office or on Gateway at www.gateway.ga.gov. Keep all receipts and other documentation of how the funds were spent in case your state agency asks you to prove you no longer have the funds available to you. When you report the income, you should indicate the income is a “lump sum” and that you can say that it is a one-time payment that you will not receive again.

How do I get information about my SNAP benefits?

Contact your state SNAP agency. You can find contact info at [\[contact information for your state\]](#).

Where can I find more information about the impact of the USDA DFAP award on my SNAP benefits?

Many USDA DFAP award recipients can request brief legal advice through the ABA Free Legal Answers platform @ <https://abafreelegalanswers.org/>. You will need to select the state

where you live and provide income information to determine eligibility for free legal advice, which is generally available to people with household income below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. Once you are approved, you can create an account to ask a question and get advice from a volunteer attorney.

Alternative resources for residents in states that do not have access to the ABA Free Legal Answers platform will be posted soon to <https://www.nlada.org/USDA-DFAP/award-recipients>.

You can also contact the Legal Aid office that serves your community. Not all Legal Aid programs can assist with these kinds of questions, and they only serve people who meet financial eligibility requirements. If you live outside the five metro Atlanta counties (Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett), you can contact Georgia Legal Services at (833) 457-7529. You can look up your local Legal Aid at <https://www.lsc.gov/about-lsc/what-legal-aid/i-need-legal-help>.

For general questions about your DFAP award, contact the DFAP Call Center at 1-800-721-0970.