

Assistance for Families with Students in School:

Berlin Central School District Free and Reduced Meal Program

Children from households that meet federal income guidelines are eligible for free meals or reduced priced meals. Reduced priced meals cost each eligible student \$0 for breakfast and \$0 for lunch. To apply for free or reduced priced meals, submit a Direct Certification letter from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR complete, sign, and return the BCSD application to the district Food Service Director in the business office. Registering for this program is completely confidential.

(518) 658-1500

<https://berlincentral.org/departments/food-services/>

Helping Hands BES Food Pantry

The food pantry is generously funded through donations, grants and community partnership. We provide supplemental food items for weekends and school vacations. Basic food items are sent home with your child after completing an information sheet.

For more information contact Deanna Baker at BES via email:

dhansen@berlincentral.org

Berlin Middle/High School Helping Hands Food Pantry

A supply of food is available for distribution to middle and high school students in need. Some of the food can be used for snacks to supplement meals (e.g., granola bars); some can be part of a meal (e.g., pasta, soup, cereal). Use of the pantry is confidential. Referrals come from students, families and staff. For more information contact Jennifer Poli:

jpoli@berlincentral.org

Local Food Assistance:

Berlin Food Closet

(518) 658-2942

United Methodist Church, 17 S Main St, Berlin, NY

Our Lady of Victory Church OLV OLS Food Pantry

Julie Darling (518) 421-5070 & Gloria Kieber (518) 892-6722

31 Owen Road, Grafton, NY

Stephentown Federated Church Food Pantry

(518) 733-5813

1513 Garfield Road Stephantown, NY 12168

For other food pantries in the greater capital district area, please check this resource:

<https://thefoodpantries.org/>

NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Overview

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues electronic benefits that can be used like cash to purchase food. SNAP helps low-income working people, senior citizens, the disabled and others feed their families. Eligibility and benefit levels are based on household size, income and other factors.

Benefits

SNAP benefits can help you put healthy food on the table. SNAP monthly benefits can be used to purchase food at authorized retail food stores.

SNAP benefits are provided through an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, similar to a bank debit card or credit card. If you are eligible, an EBT account is set up for you, and every month your benefits will be deposited right into your account.

What can I purchase with SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), has strict rules and regulations in place regarding the use of SNAP benefits. Allowable food purchases are very specific.

A detailed list of items that may be purchased with SNAP benefits can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items/>.

Households CAN use SNAP benefits to buy:

Foods for the household to eat, such as, but not limited to:

- Breads and cereals
- Fruits and vegetables
- Meats, fish and poultry
- Dairy products
- Seeds and plants which produce food for the household to eat

Households CANNOT use SNAP benefits to buy:

- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes or tobacco
- Food that will be eaten in the store
- Hot foods
- Any nonfood items, such as:
 - Pet foods
 - Soaps, paper products
 - Household supplies
 - Vitamins and medicines

Contact

For more information about SNAP, contact your [local department of social services](#) or call the toll-free OTDA Hotline: 1-800-342-3009.

To find out the location and phone number of your nearest SNAP office, contact your [local department of social services](#).

For more information visit this website: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/snap/>