



Food Supplement Benefits for People Who Are Homeless

Can I Get Food Supplement Benefits If I Am Homeless?

Yes. Be sure to put “homeless” on the line on the application that says:

“Street, address and town where you actually live, if different:”

What Happens If I am Not Paying Rent?

Once you tell DHHS that you are homeless, DHHS will ask you if you have any costs or expect to have any shelter costs. Shelter costs can include such things as paying for: a phone, motel, campground, paying to stay with a friend or relative, or paying a shelter, etc.

You then get an income deduction of \$143 per month. This is called the “Homeless Shelter Deduction” even though people who are homeless can get the deduction even if they’re not staying in a homeless shelter. This may help you get **more** Food Supplement (FS) benefits.

What If I am Homeless, But I Pay More Than \$143 to Stay Places?

If your actual shelter expenses are more than \$143 per month, you will be asked for proof of your expenses. Try to keep track of your receipts for all your expenses. This may help you get more FS benefits.

How Much Help in Food Supplement Benefits Can I Get?

The most any single person can get is \$192 per month in benefits. If you are getting less than this, make sure that DHHS knows that you are homeless. It may help you get more FS benefits.

Is There A Way That I Can Make Sure I Am Getting the Right Amount of Food Supplement Help?

- Contact DHHS if you have any questions. Make sure they are giving you the \$143 “Homeless Shelter Deduction.”
- Contact Maine Equal Justice at (207) 626-7058 **OR** your local office of Pine Tree Legal Assistance. You can find your local office and hours to call at <https://ptla.org/contact-us>.