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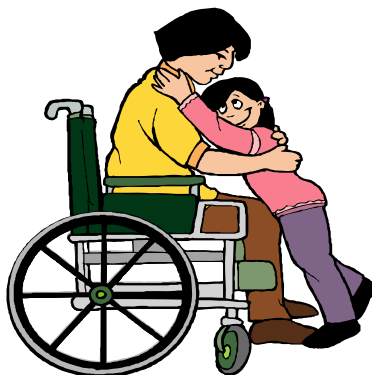
ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS DO NOT USE THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) (FORMERLY FOOD STAMPS) AS MUCH AS THEY COULD.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

1. You don't have to be very old at all -- Only 60 or disabled!
2. Elderly and disabled individuals can deduct or subtract more medical costs from their income than others.
3. Elderly or disabled individuals can subtract more housing costs than others.
4. They probably will not have to visit or phone the SNAP Benefits office very often.
5. The elderly or disabled can have a bit more money in the bank than others.
6. There are no strict income limits. Folks with big medical costs might qualify even with good income.
7. Getting and using SNAP Benefits (food stamps) is simple, you use a small card!

DON'T GO HUNGRY!



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medical Bills: What You Need to Know



Did you know that you can deduct some of your medical expenses when applying for SNAP Benefits (Food Stamps)?

This is called a Medical Deduction and it means that you can deduct "allowable medical costs" over \$35 per month, if the cost is non-reimbursable.

Examples of allowable medical costs are:

1. Medical and dental care, including psychotherapy and rehabilitation services, provided by a qualified health professional;
2. Hospitalization or outpatient treatment,
3. Prescription drugs
4. Over-the counter medication (including calcium) when approved in writing, by a licensed doctor; or health and hospitalization insurance policy premiums
5. Medicare premiums
6. Dentures, hearing aids, and prosthetics;
7. Costs for medical supplies, sickroom equipment (including rental) or other prescribed equipment
8. Eyeglasses or contact lenses, prescribed by a physician or by an optometrist;
9. Reasonable cost of transportation and lodging to obtain medical treatment/services;
10. Home health care costs which are not reimbursed or paid for by insurance.

Without Medical Deductions

"Mary" is 68 years old and lives alone. She has owned her home for several years. Her income is \$657 a month which is a combination of SSI and Social Security. She has no medical deductions.

Income	\$657
Minus the Standard Deduction	- <u>\$144</u>
Equals SNAP Benefits Income	\$513

Mary is eligible to receive \$46 each month in SNAP Benefits.

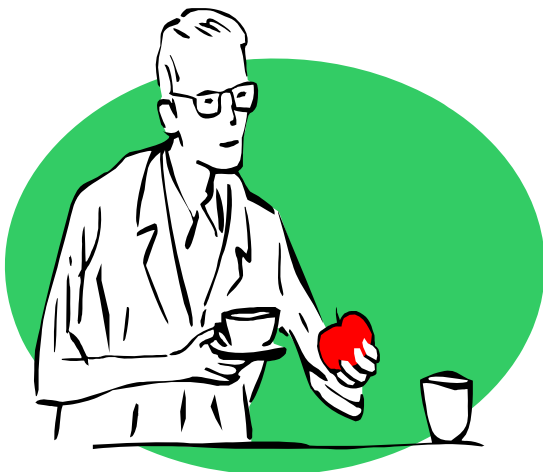
With Medical Deductions

"Ann" is also 68 years old. Her income is \$1,000 per month which comes from Social Security and a pension benefit. She also owns her own home, which has no mortgage.

Income	\$1,000.00
Minus the Standard Deduction	- <u>\$144.00</u>
Equals	\$856.00
Minus Medical Deduction	- <u>\$945.50</u>
Equals Adjusted SNAP Income	* 0 *

Ann gets \$200.00 in SNAP Benefits each month.

Because she pays \$245.50 each month for her Medicare premiums and she owes in outstanding medical bills, Ann is able to deduct that total of \$945.50.



For more information about Medical Deductions, call the DHS office in your county or call your local Legal Services or Legal Aid office.