



# SNAP

## A Guide for Retailers

### Helping Texans Purchase Food

#### About SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program helps people buy the food they need for good health. SNAP benefits are used through the Lone Star Card, which works like a credit card at participating retailers.

Misusing the benefit, whether as a client or a retailer, can have serious consequences. It can result in disqualification from the SNAP program, financial penalties and being charged with a felony.

The Office of Inspector General aggressively investigates SNAP fraud, recovering more than \$29 million from SNAP clients and vendors who misused SNAP benefits in 2019.

#### Proper use of SNAP

People can use SNAP to buy eligible foods, such as:

- Breads and cereals.
- Fruits and vegetables.
- Meat, poultry and fish.
- Dairy products.
- Seeds and plants to grow food (not flowers).

#### Examples of SNAP misuse

Buying, selling or trading SNAP benefits - called SNAP or food stamp trafficking - is against the law.

Examples of SNAP trafficking:

- If a retailer offers cash, a gift card or unauthorized refunds in exchange for SNAP benefits.
- If a retailer accepts SNAP for store credits which are used for things not covered by SNAP, such as gas, tobacco or alcohol.
- SNAP clients who trade their Lone Star Card for cash to pay for illegal gaming.

Anyone who buys or sells SNAP benefits is committing fraud. If you think someone is misusing their benefits, report it.

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#### Contact the OIG to report SNAP fraud

800-436-6184

211 Texas: Dial 2-1-1, select your language, then choose Option 3.

Online: [ReportTexasFraud.com](http://ReportTexasFraud.com)