

SNAP IMMEDIATELY UPON RELEASE

[Eligible Texans who complete their sentences can begin receiving SNAP benefits \(Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program\) immediately upon release¹](#). This policy change aims to support formerly incarcerated individuals as they reenter society. The goal is to provide them with immediate resources for food, allowing them to focus on rebuilding their lives.

The process involves implementing **pre-release registration** for SNAP benefits, which streamlines the application process. By doing so, Texas aims to reduce recidivism and help lower incarceration costs for the state. [It's essential because people exiting the criminal justice system are especially vulnerable immediately after release, and SNAP provides critical food assistance for those who often have no means of purchasing food for themselves or their families²](#).

Federal SNAP rules require that states process applications within 30 days of an individual filing the request. [However, recent staffing shortages at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission \(HHSC\) have sometimes extended this processing time to over 60 days²](#).

Nonetheless, the goal is to ensure timely access to food assistance for those leaving the criminal justice system.

Pre-release registration for SNAP benefits in Texas is a straightforward process that allows eligible individuals to apply for **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** benefits before their release from incarceration. Here's what you need to know:

1. **Eligibility:**

- Individuals who are about to be released from the criminal justice system are already eligible for SNAP benefits. [This policy change aims to provide them with immediate resources for food upon release¹](#).

2. **Application Process:**

- To apply for SNAP benefits before release, recipients can dial **2-1-1** and select **Option 8**.
- [Alternatively, they can download Form H1855 \(Affidavit for Nonreceipt or Destroyed SNAP Benefits\)²](#).

3. **Benefits Activation:**

- [Once benefits are approved, they will be placed on the recipient's Lone Star Card within two business days²](#).

[By streamlining the application process, Texas aims to support reentry, reduce recidivism, and ensure that individuals leaving the criminal justice system have access to essential food assistance¹](#). If you or someone you know is in this situation, consider reaching out to the appropriate channels to initiate the pre-release SNAP registration process. ✨