

NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

**ARE YOU A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER
THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM!**

1. **You do not need a photo ID to receive food stamps.** The food stamp caseworker will ask you to prove who you are. There are many ways to prove your identity. You can use a birth certificate, wage stubs, or school records, for example. You can also use a “collateral contact” to verify who you are. Shelter employees, friends, and neighbors are examples of possible collateral contacts. You should NOT be denied food stamps simply because you lack a photo ID.
2. **You are eligible for food stamps even if you are living in a domestic violence shelter or homeless shelter that provides you with meals.**
3. **If you are living in a domestic violence shelter, you have the RIGHT to apply for food stamps for yourself and your children even if you have already been certified for food stamps with your batterer as part of his household.** Even if you were given food stamps while you were living with your batterer, you can still apply for food stamps as a new household if you are living in a domestic violence shelter. You should not be punished for the fact that you fled an abusive situation.
4. **You do not need a permanent address to receive food stamps.** You are eligible for food stamps even if you are living on the street, living in a shelter, or living with a friend. You cannot be denied food stamps simply because you lack a permanent address or simply because you fled from your home.
5. **If your child is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident, your child is eligible for food stamps even if you are undocumented.** You can apply for food stamps for your child if your child is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident (meaning he/she has a greencard) even if you cannot apply for yourself because of your immigration status.
6. **You may be eligible for emergency food stamps.** If your income and resources are low enough, you may be eligible for what is called “expedited service.” If you are eligible for expedited service you are entitled to receive your food stamps within seven days from the date that you applied (and even sooner in some states).

If you have any questions about the food stamp program, please contact Sara Simon Tompkins, Staff Attorney, at (202) 638-2535 ext. 205 or ssimon@nlchp.org.

