



FARMWORKER & LANDSCAPER ADVOCACY PROJECT

*ABOGADOS PARA CAMPESINOS Y
JARDINEROS*

Food Stamps

*Advocating and Litigating on Behalf
of Landscapers and Farmworkers
since 1999.*

www.fwadvocacy.org



FARMWORKER & LANDSCAPER ADVOCACY PROJECT

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What are food stamps?

Food stamps are coupons or credit that can be used to purchase food.

Where do food stamps come from?

They are delivered by the state government to persons with limited resources.

How do I qualify to receive food stamps?

A citizen of the U.S. qualifies if his/her earnings are less than a certain amount. The amount depends on the number of family members dependent on that person.

Do legal residents also qualify?

Yes. Legal residents qualify if they have had permanent residency for at least 5 years or if the members of their family have worked a total of ten years or more in the United States. Additionally, all legal residents under the age of 18 qualify for food stamps.

Can I receive food stamps if my child is a citizen but I am not?

Yes. Even if not all family members are citizens or legal residents, the government will give stamps for all children born in the U.S.

How do I get food stamps?

To request food stamps you must present information on:

- *persons in your family;*
- *income;*
- *money in savings;*
- *Social Security numbers*
- *proof of legal residence in the U.S.*
- *proof of residence in the state you are living in.*

Where do I go to request food stamps in Illinois?

To the nearest office of the Department of Human Services (formerly the office of Public Aid). In some counties, you can also request them at the offices of the Illinois Migrant Council.

How many stamps should I receive?

The amount of stamps you receive will depend on your income, your household expenses and the number of eligible persons in your family.

Does the Department of Human Services have people who speak Spanish?

Yes. The majority of the offices have people who speak Spanish. Those which do not can call an interpreter by telephone.

What are “emergency” stamps?

Emergency stamps are stamps that can be

requested when you have very little money in cash. They are delivered within 5 days.

How do I know if I qualify for emergency stamps?

To qualify, you should:

- 1) have less than \$100 in cash, and*
- 2) not expect to receive more than \$25 in pay in the next 10 days*

If I qualify for emergency stamps, when will I receive them?

Within 5 days, at the most. (Normally you will receive non-emergency food stamps within 30 days.)

If my request is denied, do I have other options?

Yes. You can appeal your denial with the office of Human Services.

And if I lose the appeal?

You can take the case to the county court.

Who can help me if they deny me food stamps?

Any office of Legal Services. And if you work in agricultural labor or in a nursery, you can call Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project at (847) 668-2114 Spanish and English spoken.