

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FOOD PANTRY RECIPIENTS

To be eligible to receive commodities from emergency food pantries, all households must be identified as needy through one of the following criteria.

A household is defined as:

A group of related or non-related individuals, exclusive of boarders, who are not residents of an institution, but who are living as one economic unit and for whom food is customarily purchased and prepared in common. It also means an individual living alone.

Foster children or wards of the state living with and under the charge of related or unrelated individual(s) are included as members of the household with which they reside, and do not qualify as separate households. [TEFAP](#) eligibility guidelines do not require the host family to include, in their total household income, funds received from the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) for keeping foster children. When registering at a [TEFAP](#) pantry site, a recipient may include foster children in total family size, but should not include DYFS funds received for foster child placements.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Participate in one of these automatic qualifier programs:
 - [Temporary Assistance to Needy Families](#) (TANF)
 - [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP)
 - [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI)
 - [Women, Infants and Children](#) (WIC) Program
 - [MEDICAID](#)

Participants in these programs must show some form of program identification to automatically become eligible to receive their commodities. Program participants who are not able to show proof of their program enrollment must then show other proof of income.

2. Have a total household income that does not exceed income eligibility guidelines (185% of [federal poverty guidelines](#)). Applicants must show some proof of income such as unemployment, social security check or a pay stub.

All eligible recipients must provide their name, address, and sign a Signature Sheet when they receive commodities.