How to Apply for Basic Food Benefits

1) Complete an application
   - At DSHS or an Out-Station
   - By phone: 360-734-5121 x246, or
   - Online: washingtonconnection.org

2) Complete an interview in one of the following ways
   *Walk-in, no appointment necessary*

   At Opportunity Council DSHS Out-Station
   1111 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham
   Tues-Wed 8am-3:30pm & Thurs 8-11:30am

   At DSHS Main Office
   4101 Meridian St.
   Mon-Fri 8am-2pm

   Over the Phone
   1-877-501-2233

   At EFRRC DSHS Out-Station
   8251 Kendall Rd., Maple Falls
   Wed 9am-3:30pm

   At WorkSource DSHS Out-Station
   101 Prospect St., Bellingham
   Tues 9am-3:30pm

   At Lummi DSHS Out-Station
   2592 Kwina Rd.
   Mon, Wed, Fri 8am-4pm, closed for lunch

   At Nooksack DSHS Out-Station
   5061 Deming Rd
   Fri 9am-3:30pm, non-Tribal members welcome

3) Provide documentation for all household members
   - **Proof of Identity**
     - Driver’s License or State ID
     - Work or School ID Card
     - Health ID Card
     - Birth Certificate
     - US Passport
   - **Citizenship or Alien Status**
     - Social Security numbers for all applying members of household
     - Documentation Status Letter
   - **Earned Income**
     - Pay stubs (past 3-6mo.)
     - Employer Statement
     - Income Tax Forms
     - Self-employment Bookkeeping records (for 12mo.)
   - **Un-earned Income**
     - Social Security Award Letter
     - Child Support Agreement
     - Unemployment Stubs
     - Bank Statement w/deposits
     - Income Tax Forms
   - **Residency & Expenses**
     - Lease/Mortgage Agreement
     - Statement of Shared Living Arrangement
     - Utility Bills
     - Medical Expenses (Seniors/Disabled Only)

4) Receive EBT Card (Electronic Benefits Transfer)
   Receive card in-person at DSHS or have it mailed to you. Every month food benefits are added to your card.
   Benefits can be used to purchase food at most grocery stores and Farmers' Markets.
   Benefits are available at 10am the day after approval.

5) Receive other benefits
   Basic Food Enrollment may also qualify you for these programs:
   + Free & Reduced School Lunch
   + Head-Start & Early Head-Start
   + WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)
   + Free Assurance wireless phone
   + Energy Assistance
   + Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET)
   + Fresh Bucks at participating locations matches your EBT benefits up to $10 per location per day for purchase of additional fruits and veggies. More info: whatcomabc.org/fresh-bucks-2

   Contact Opportunity Council’s Community Resource Center for more information and other resources.

   Drop-in hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm
   1111 Cornwall Ave. Bellingham, WA
   (360) 734-5121