

Destigmatizing Hunger with Pantries



Food Pantry Usage - The Script

“Hi, neighbor!

I just wanted to share some helpful information with you. If you or someone you know could use a little extra support with groceries, the Arkansas Foodbank has free food pantries throughout the area.

You can find one near you by visiting arkansasfoodbank.org/food or by texting “findfood” (all one word) to 844-381-3663.

Here’s what you can expect when visiting a pantry:

- Some pantries are drive-thru style, while others welcome you to come inside.
- You might be able to choose your own groceries, or you may receive a pre-packed box.
- Most pantries do not ask about income or citizenship status.

If you’d like to know exactly what to expect, it’s a great idea to call ahead. Pantry staff are kind, welcoming, and there to help—no judgment, just support.

You’re not alone, and there’s no shame in reaching out. These resources are here for you.”

If they seem interested in SNAP as well, refer to the SNAP script.

SNAP Help Center - The Script

“Hi there! While you’re here, I wanted to let you know about another great resource that might be helpful—SNAP benefits. These benefits can help you buy groceries each month, and the Arkansas Foodbank has a team ready to walk with you through the whole process.

You can get started by visiting arkansasfoodbank.org/snap. There, you’ll take a quick eligibility quiz and then set up a time to talk with the SNAP Help Center team.

Here’s what they’ll do for you:

- Help you understand if you qualify
- Guide you through the application step-by-step
- Assist with all the paperwork
- Be your advocate throughout the process

Applying for SNAP can feel overwhelming, but you don’t have to do it alone. The team is friendly, respectful, and here to support you every step of the way.

You deserve access to the resources that can help you and your family thrive.”

Offer the neighbor a SNAP brochure that includes all the key information about how to get started. Be sure to point out the section inside that addresses common myths and misconceptions about SNAP—many people are surprised to learn they qualify or that the process is easier than they expected.

SNAP Frequently Asked Questions



- **What is SNAP?**

- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), formerly known as food stamps, helps low-income individuals and families buy food. Benefits are loaded onto an EBT card and can be used at grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, and some farmers' markets.

- **Why do we care about SNAP?**

- SNAP is one of the most effective tools for fighting hunger. In Arkansas, where food insecurity is among the highest in the nation, SNAP helps families stretch their food budgets and access nutritious food. It also supports local economies by increasing food purchases at local retailers.

- **Didn't I hear something about SNAP cuts recently?**

- Yes. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) included billions in cuts to SNAP, and Arkansas is also implementing state-level restrictions. However, we still believe that SNAP is a vital tool – every 1 meal that AFB can provide, SNAP can provide 9.

- **How do I help a neighbor that I serve get connected with the SNAP Help Center?**

- You can refer them directly to the Arkansas Foodbank SNAP Help Center:
 - 📞 Call: 870-532-8151
 - ✉ Email: SNAP@arkansasfoodbank.org
 - 🌐 Visit: arkansasfoodbank.org/SNAP
- *Even if they're not eligible for SNAP, the Foodbank can connect them with one of more than 400 partner food pantries.*

- **How do I know if a neighbor is eligible for the program?**

- Don't worry about neighbor eligibility! Simply send the neighbor to the Arkansas Foodbank website, and they will take an eligibility quiz before they schedule an appointment with our team.

SNAP Resources & Support

What SNAP resources are available to me, a pantry leader?

- You have access to a variety of helpful materials to support your SNAP outreach efforts:
 - Digital materials: Visit arkansasfoodbank.org/SNAP
 - Printed Materials: Email snap@arkansasfoodbank.org

- **Need more materials?**

- All SNAP materials are available for download and printing via our Google Drive folders for SNAP, Destigmatizing hunger, and our [Agency Resources website page](#).
- If you're unable to print materials yourself, you can request additional copies through the SNAP team at Arkansas Foodbank. Please note that our printing budget is limited—we'll do our best to fulfill your request, but we may not be able to provide the full quantity requested. If needed, we're happy to collaborate with you financially to help cover printing costs.