



Need Food Stamps Right Away?

Ask for Expedited (Fast) Food Stamps!



What do you mean by “fast”?

If you have very little money, you may be able to get your first Food Stamps **within 7 days after you apply**. This is called an expedited [“fast”] issuance. If your stamps aren’t expedited, it may take up to 30 days for you to receive them.

Will I qualify for “expedited” Food Stamps?

Does one of the following describe you? If yes, you should get your first Food Stamps within 7 days after you apply:

- ✓ **I have very little money –** My monthly gross income [the total before all withholding] is \$150 or less and my cash or savings are less than \$100 – OR
- ✓ **I don’t have enough money to pay my housing and utility bills –** My monthly gross income plus all my cash and savings are less than my monthly housing and utility bills -- OR
- ✓ **I am a migrant or seasonal farmworker who is between jobs** My income stopped before I applied for Food Stamps **or** I won’t receive more than \$25 from a new job in the 10 days since I applied, **AND** I have less than \$100 cash or savings

How do I get expedited Food Stamps?



1. Apply at FIA and show ID

If you apply at the Family Independence Agency (FIA):

FIA must help you fill out the application and verify information, if you ask.

If you cannot go to the FIA office:

- You can apply by mail. If you cannot get to the FIA office for an interview, tell FIA. Someone must interview you at your home or by telephone.
- You can appoint someone else to apply for you. Call your FIA office to find out how to appoint a representative.

2. Be Eligible for Food Stamps

If your application shows you will not qualify for Food Stamps, you will be denied, even if your income is low.

If your application alone shows you are eligible for expedited Food Stamps, FIA must give you Food Stamps within 7 days even if you don’t have all the papers and proof of income that FIA wants. You will have to provide FIA with all this information in order to receive Food Stamps after your first issuance.



What if I don't get my Food Stamps in 7 days?

If you think you qualify for expedited Food Stamps and it has been more than 7 days since you applied,

1. **Call your FIA caseworker or the caseworker's supervisor**
2. **Seek legal advice.**

To locate the legal services or legal aid office in your area, look under "attorneys" in the yellow pages, or call the State Bar lawyer referral service at (800) 968- 0738.



What if I am denied Food Stamps?

If you are denied expedited issuance or are denied Food Stamps, you should receive a notice from FIA. If you think the denial is wrong, you may want to do the following:

1. **Request a hearing** if you think the denial was wrong.
2. **Seek legal advice.**
To locate the legal services or legal aid office in your area, look under "attorneys" in the yellow pages, or call the State Bar lawyer referral service at (800) 968- 0738.
3. **Reapply** if your circumstances have changed since you were denied.

How do I find my local FIA office?

Look under the State of Michigan listing in your telephone book, or ask other helping agencies in your community (United Way, community Action agency, food pantries or soup kitchens, health department, senior center, etc.).