

FAMILY SUBSISTENCE SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOWANCE (FSSA) PROGRAM

The Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) is a program to increase a Servicemember's Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) and remove military families from the SNAP Program (formerly the food stamp program). To apply, ACS may pre-screen and counsel potential applicants or service members may obtain the web-based application at <https://milconnect-pki.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/protected/portlet/fssa/>.

A few facts about FSSA

- Servicemembers (SM) on active duty receiving full or partial BAS are eligible. FSSA is voluntary.
- If the SM is in a non-pay status, they are not eligible for FSSA.
- This does not include SMs who receive a no pay due because of deductions and collections. It does apply to soldiers in AWOL status.
- A family that does not qualify for SNAP may qualify for FSSA.
- If a SM is geographically separated from the household, the SM will be considered part of the household for the purposes of FSSA.
- Only dependents who normally live with the SM will be considered as part of the household for FSSA.
- FSSA requires annual recertification or when monthly income increases by \$100 or more, household size decreases, SM is promoted or relocated due to a PCS move.
- FSSA income must be included when applying for certain other program based on income, such as school lunch programs, WIC, and earned income tax credits.

How is eligibility determined?

Eligibility is based on a SM's household size and income. If a SM's income, together with the income of the rest of the SM's household (if any), is within guidelines of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Stamp Act, that SM is entitled to FSSA.

What is included in household income?

- Military income
- Wages, earnings, and salaries
- Commissions and tips
- Self employment income
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- TANF
- Interest and dividend income
- Alimony and child support
- Unemployment and workers compensation
- Veteran benefits
- Annuities, pensions, and other retirements
- Other payments not excluded

What is excluded from household income?

- Income of students under 18 years of age
- Loans, grants, and scholarships
- Income tax refunds
- Insurance settlements
- Payments from federal earned income tax credit
- Federal energy assistance payment (except those made by TANF)
- HUD utility reimbursements
- Reimbursement for medical and dental care
- Value of food stamps

What is included in military pay?

- Basic pay
- BAS
- BAH or cash equivalent if quarters are provided
- All bonuses and special incentives pay unless specifically excluded

What is not included in military pay?

- Overseas and CONUS cost of living allowances
- Family separation housing allowances
- Travel and transportation allowances
- Clothing allowances