

FRAUD ALERT: USDA Warns of Text Message Scam Targeting SNAP Recipients

WASHINGTON, September 10, 2020 – USDA issued the following notice today to protect SNAP participants, after receiving reports of several possible SNAP Fraud attempts:

Be aware of a scam using texting to obtain your personal information. The text might say you were chosen to receive food stamps or SNAP. If you do not know if a request for information about SNAP is real or not, contact your local SNAP office.

Never share personal information with individuals or organizations that you do not know. Personal information includes your social security number, bank information, or SNAP electronic benefits transfer card or PIN number.

If you think the text is a scam, do not reply at all. Just delete.

If SNAP participants are unsure if a request for information is legitimate, USDA advises they contact their local SNAP office. If they do not know their local SNAP office, participants should contact their state agency. State contact information is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-directory>.

To stay on top of potential scams, please visit USDA's SNAP scam alert webpage at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/scam-alerts>.

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft, contact your local police department regarding procedures for filing a report. You may also file a consumer complaint online with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <https://www.ftc.gov>. FTC is the federal agency responsible for protecting consumers from identity theft scams.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers [15 nutrition assistance programs](#) that leverage American's agricultural abundance to ensure children and low-income individuals and families have nutritious food to eat. FNS also co-develops the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), which provide science-based nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of federal nutrition policy.

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<https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/fraud-alert-usda-warns-text-message-scam-targeting-snap-recipients>