

WASHCAP vs. Basic Food

(Per <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/eligibility-z-manual-ea-z/washcap> under Worker Responsibilities - WAC 388-492-0040, 2. How is WASHCAP different than Basic Food, as of January 2021.)

WASHCAP	Basic Food
The WASHCAP food assistance application is one page long. The SSA interview for SSI is also the interview for WASHCAP.	The application for Basic Food is longer, and clients must complete an additional interview.
A client must be eligible for SSI to be eligible for WASHCAP.	A client does not have to be eligible for or getting SSI to be eligible for Basic Food.
A client is eligible for WASHCAP if the client gets SSI benefits and SSA determines that the client: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets the definition of Living Arrangement A (Living Alone); • Purchases and prepares food separately; and • Has no earned income 	We decide if an assistance unit is eligible for Basic Food based on the client's living arrangements, whom they purchase and prepare food with, and other eligibility factors under <u>WAC 388-400-0040</u> and <u>388-400-0045</u> .
A client must complete an application for benefits every 36 months unless SSA has recertified SSI benefits. When SSA has recertified a client's SSI benefits, WASHCAP benefits are recertified and automatically extended for 36 months from the date SSA recertified the client's SSI.	Most households have to complete an application and have an interview for benefits every 12 months.
A client does not have to give us proof of circumstances. SSA gives us this information.	A client must give us proof of income, non-citizen status, and identity. Other elements are verified only if questionable.
A client must tell SSA about changes within ten calendar days after the month the change happened. The client is not required to report this change to DSHS.	A client must report certain changes to the local office. The client may have to provide proof of the changes. DSHS does not report changes to SSA.
A client's WASHCAP benefits start the first of the month after the month the client applies for food benefits and SSA starts ongoing SSI benefits. We do not prorate WASHCAP benefits.	A client's Basic Food benefits usually start from the date the client applied for Basic Food benefits. We determine the exact date the client's benefits are effective under <u>WAC 388-406-0055</u> . We prorate the first month's benefits based on this date.
We do not offer expedited service for WASHCAP benefits.	A client that qualifies for expedited service can get Basic Food within seven days of the date the client applied for benefits.
Adults ages 18 thru 21 can receive WASHCAP while living with their parent(s) who are not receiving Basic Food	Adults ages 18 thru 21 living with parent(s) must receive food assistance with them.

To apply, go to www.washingtonconnection.org. Click on Food Assistance. Answer the questions as though the person is their own household. If applying for WASHCAP, write "applying for WASHCAP" at the end in the comments/remarks. Submit application and then call 1-855-873-0642. Let them know you have submitted an application for WASHCAP food and ask them what the next step in the process is.

A person must be receiving a full SSI amount to qualify for WASHCAP food assistance.