

Good for your business. Good for your community. Good for Vermont!



Becoming an authorized 3SquaresVT retailer will increase your sales and provide an important service to your customers and your community. 3SquaresVT supports both the people who receive benefits and local retailers.

In 2010, 3SquaresVT gave Vermonters over \$125 million to spend in the state's grocery stores.

What is 3SquaresVT?

3SquaresVT (formerly Food Stamps) is a federal program that gives people money to buy food. Households receive monthly benefits to purchase food from authorized retailers. Benefits are issued in the form of an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card that functions like a debit card, with purchases automatically deducted from the household's allotment.

Who gets 3SquaresVT?

The majority of 3SquaresVT benefits go to households with children, elders, or people with disabilities. To qualify, a household must have limited income.

Is my store eligible for authorization?

In order to participate as a 3SquaresVT retail store, your business must **EITHER:**



Sell at least three varieties of foods in each of the following four staple food groups on a daily basis (this includes perishable foods in at least two of the following categories):

- Meat, poultry, or fish
- Bread or cereal
- Vegetables or fruits
- Dairy products



OR:

Receive more than 50% of gross sales from the sale of these staple foods.

How can I become an authorized 3SquaresVT retailer?

If you would like to accept 3SquaresVT in your store, you must apply for authorization from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food & Nutrition Service (FNS). The authorization process usually takes about 30-45 days and involves an application form, a site visit, training, and equipment set up. **Apply online or call 1-877-823-4369. It's easy!**

See reverse for application and contact information



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APPLICATION:

You can request an application from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service by calling **1-877-823-4369**. You should receive the packet within five days.

Or you can fill out the application online at:
www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailers/register.htm

For questions about the application process and site visit, please **visit vermontfoodhelp.com** and click the **'Information for retailers'** section. You may also contact:

Retail Operations—North
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
Albany, NY
Phone: 518-431-4274



TRAINING & EQUIPMENT:

If your application is approved, you may be asked to attend a training meeting. The training teaches you how to handle 3SquaresVT transactions, including topics such as eligible foods, sales tax, EBT systems, and penalties for retailers who violate program rules.

The state's EBT contractor will contact you within several days after your application is approved to discuss different equipment options for your store to process 3SquaresVT sales.

For questions about Vermont's EBT equipment contract, contact:

Ames Robb, EBT Director
Vermont Department for Children and Families
Phone: 802-760-0126
Email: Ames.Robb@ahs.state.vt.us

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Hunger Free Vermont
38 Eastwood Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403
Phone: 802-865-0255
Web: www.hungerfreevt.org

Vermont Grocers' Association
148 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone: 800-842-8503
Web: www.vtgrocers.org