Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Shop’N Eat program?

Shop’N Eat (Subsidizing Healthy-food Options Plus Nutrition Education and Training) is a program to educate and provide opportunities for developing healthy eating habits for Anne Arundel County’s older adult residents through the use of subsidized grocery cash cards.

2. What is new in the Shop ‘N Eat program?

Starting August 1, 2021, the Shop ‘N Eat program has implemented these changes:

   a. The program is broken into 2 periods.
      i. Each period will last 6 months (Period 1: July-December; Period 2: January-June).
      ii. Each period will hold 3 distribution sessions
          1. Period 1: August, October and December
          2. Period 2: February, April, June
      iii. Clients will be able to participate once a period (A total of 2x a year)

   b. To register, you will need to fill out the Shop ‘N Eat application.
      i. Applications can be found
         1. In person at your local Senior Activity Center
         2. Online in a PDF format
         3. Online via a digital form
      ii. Applications can be submitted
          1. In person at the Nutrition Desk in your local senior center
          2. US Mail to 7320 Ritchie Highway Glen Burnie 21060
          3. Filling out the digital form

   c. The distribution sessions will be held in 9 different locations:
      i. Annapolis Senior Activity Center
      ii. Arnold Senior Activity Center
      iii. Brooklyn Park Senior Activity Center
      iv. Northern Office (Hein-Glen Burnie)
      v. O’Malley Senior Activity Center
      vi. Pasadena Senior Activity Center
      vii. Pascal Senior Activity Center
      viii. South County Senior Activity Center
      ix. Southern Office/ Heritage Complex (Chesapeake Room/Independence Room-Annapolis)

   d. Sessions held at the Northern and Southern Office will be held in the evening.

3. What are the eligibility requirements to participate in Shop’N Eat?

Participants must be 60 years or older, Anne Arundel County resident (must show proof) and participate in nutrition education you are registered for.

Updated 7/2021
4. **Is there a limit per household?**
   Yes, as of April 2021 Shop’N Eat will be limited to one (1) participant per household per year. Other members of the household may come and listen to the education piece, however only one participant per household will be eligible to purchase the discounted cash cards.

5. **Are there exclusions for what the Shop’N Eat cash cards can be used for?**
   Yes, excluded items included: alcohol mixers, tobacco products, personal care, pet and household items.

6. **How much will the Shop’N Eat cash cards cost me?**
   The nice thing about Shop’N Eat is you can choose to spend as little as $10.00 up to $30.00 (in $10.00 increments) and we will match what you put in!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$20 Value</td>
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<tr>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$40 Value</td>
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<tr>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$60 Value</td>
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7. **How do I get the Shop’N Eat cash cards?**
   Shop’N Eat cash cards are limited and will be distributed on a bi-monthly basis (August, October, December, February, April, June) in 9 locations across Anne Arundel County. This is an in-person program only.

8. **Do I have to register each time to participate in Shop’N Eat?**
   No. You can submit an application via mail, email or in person (at the nutrition desk in your local senior center). Your application will be on file for a year. You will be informed by the Senior Nutrition Office which session to attend during that year. **We have limited availability so you must register to participate in the Shop’N Eat program.** Information on how to register and the application can always be found on our website at [http://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/shop-n-eat-program](http://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/shop-n-eat-program), key word search “Shop’N Eat “, or in person at your local senior center.

9. **What is the maximum dollar amount I can receive in the Shop’N Eat program?**
   The maximum value card you can purchase is a $60.00 value and will cost you $30.00. All cards are sold in increments of $10.00 cost.

10. **How often can I purchase Shop’N Eat cash cards?**
    Distribution will happen one day at each senior center each quarter beginning in September. Please check your local senior center newsletter for the dates and/or Department of Aging & Disabilities website ([http://www.aacounty.org/departments/aging-and-disabilities/](http://www.aacounty.org/departments/aging-and-disabilities/)) under “Upcoming Events”. You will only be able to purchase cash cards one time a period.

11. **Can I use the Shop’N Eat cash card anywhere?**
    Each session the cards will be valid for one retailer and will be changed every session.

**Updated 7/2021**
12. Can someone else pick up my Shop’N Eat cash card for me?
The Shop’N Eat program is an in-person program only because every participant must show proof of age, Anne Arundel County residency and participate in nutrition education.

13. What if I registered and can’t attend?
Please let us know at least 48hrs in advance if you are not able to attend. If you do not cancel in advance for your registered date it will result in ineligibility to participate in the next registration period. We often have a waitlist and will be able to offer someone on the waitlist the opportunity to participate.

14. Can I order my Shop’N eat cash cards through the mail?
Shop’N Eat is an in-person program only and we do not offer a mail order option. Since we will be distributing Shop’N Eat quarterly at each of the seven (7) senior centers this allows participants 7 different opportunities to make arrangements to attend an available distribution day.

15. What are the acceptable forms of payment for the Shop’N Eat program?
We accept cash, check and money orders only. If paying by check the person purchasing Shop’N Eat must be named on the check.

16. Do you offer refunds if I don’t use the Shop’N Eat cash cards?
The nice thing about Shop’N Eat cash cards is that they do not have an expiration date!

17. What if I lose my Shop’N Eat cash cards, are they replaceable?
Unfortunately, Shop’N Eat cash cards are not replaceable. Please don’t lose them!

LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE!

Updated 7/2021