

Greensgrow kicks off its winter SNAP Share program

By Paulina Malek
Dec 6, 2017

Greensgrow kicked off its second winter SNAP Share program, enabling Philly residents enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to receive healthy, fresh and local produce and protein boxes at an affordable price.

The popularity of its flagship CSA, or community supported agriculture program, in which each member pays for a share of food and receives seasonal produce in exchange, enabled the organization to create a similar program for lower-income residents.



Photo by Greensgrow Farms

Executive Director Ryan Kuck said the decision was prompted after neighbors told stories of their SNAP benefits running out at the end of the month.

"When you only have limited dollars [and] running out of your money, you're prioritizing the high-calorie, high-fat items that are going to get you through the month, and fruits and vegetables and perishable items fall to the bottom of the list," Kuck said.

He added that the SNAP Share program, which served about 36 families in its first year, is a way to offer residents access to fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the whole month, regardless of their finances.

The program, which officially kicked off Dec. 1, will enable residents to pick up shares of food every other week over a 22-week period that will end the week of April 15.

Residents can still participate in the program after the start date, and the share prices will be recalculated depending on how many pick-ups are still available at the time.

The program's SNAP Share members can choose from three food options. The SNAP Meat Share (\$250 at \$25 per share) includes five to seven produce or pantry items, a local meat and a choice of one protein item (eggs, milk,

butter, seitan, tofu or yogurt).

The SNAP Large Vegetarian/Vegan Share (\$225 at \$22.50 per share) includes eight to 11 produce or pantry items, and a choice of one protein item (eggs, milk, butter, seitan, tofu or yogurt).

The SNAP Small Vegetarian/Vegan Share (\$175 at \$17.50 per share) includes five to seven produce items, and a choice of one protein item (eggs, milk, butter, seitan, tofu or yogurt).

Members can also opt for add-on shares, which include cheese, coffee or bread, but Greensgrow cannot lower the prices of these items.

Food shares can be picked up at three locations, including Greensgrow Farms (2501 E. Cumberland Street) every other Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Greensgrow West (5123 Baltimore Ave.) every other Friday from 4-7 p.m.; and BeerLove (714 S. 4th St.) every other Saturday from 12-2 p.m.

To participate in the program, individuals must show proof of income eligibility in the form of an Access EBT Card. Those eligible for SNAP benefits who do not have an Access EBT Card can review their eligibility status by going to www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligibility or calling the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger's SNAP benefits hotline at 215-430-0556.

For more details on the program, please visit www.greensgrow.org/snap/. Photo by Greensgrow Farms