



# 3SquaresVT for Retailers: Introduction



## What is 3SquaresVT?

3SquaresVT 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, with purchases automatically deducted from the participant's allotment and deposited into the retailer's account.



## Why accept 3SquaresVT?

Becoming an authorized 3SquaresVT retailer will increase your sales and provide an important service to your customers and community. 3SquaresVT increases the purchasing power of low-income households: In 2009, 3SquaresVT gave Vermonters over \$100 million to spend in the state's grocery stores and farmers' markets.



## Who gets 3SquaresVT?

Over half of 3SquaresVT participants are children and people over the age of 60. In 2009, over 80,000 Vermonters were enrolled. To qualify, a household must have a limited income, and high housing, child care, or health care expenses.



## How can I become authorized?

To accept 3SquaresVT benefits in your store, you must apply for retailer authorization from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The process takes about 30-45 days and involves an application form, site visit, and equipment setup.



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End Childhood Hunger  
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 VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
ECONOMIC SERVICES DIVISION