Last checked: 5 October 2026 · Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department (Civil Supplies)

Universal Public Distribution System (free rice)

Tamil Nadu supplies rice free every month to families holding a smart family card, through fair price shops. Antyodaya (AAY) families get 35 kg a month.

What you may get

Rice is given free of cost each month at the fair price shop. AAY card holders get 35 kg of rice and wheat per card, whatever the family size. Other rice cards get the quantity set for their type.

Who it is for

Families in Tamil Nadu holding a smart family card of the AAY, priority (PHH) or non-priority (NPHH) type.

Main conditions

- The family must hold a Tamil Nadu smart family card that carries a rice entitlement (AAY, PHH or NPHH).
- Sugar-only (NPHH-S) and no-commodity (NPHH-NC) cards do not carry a rice entitlement.
- AAY and PHH cards follow the National Food Security Act norms; other cards depend on the option chosen by the applicant.

How to apply

1. Apply for a new smart family card on the official portal www.tnpds.gov.in.
2. The district office checks the application on the ground and the eligible applicant is issued a smart family card with a QR code.
3. Collect the monthly rice with the card at your fair price shop.

Status

Active

Official source: https://cms.tn.gov.in/cms_migrated/document/docfiles/foodcp_e_pn_2026_27.pdf
Official application: https://www.tnpds.gov.in
Labh Lo page: https://labhlo.in/en/schemes/tamil-nadu/tn-upds-free-rice/

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