

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)



SNAP is our nation’s largest anti-hunger program and it provides crucial nutrition to families with children, promotes health and wellness, and prepares students to learn. As Congress moves forward in reauthorizing the Farm Bill, we urge you to protect and strengthen SNAP – do not cut its funding, turn it in to a block grant, or make structural changes to the program that would negatively impact eligibility and participation.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- ▶ By providing monthly benefits to eligible low-income people to purchase food, SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty, and improving family security, child and adult health, and employment.
- ▶ SNAP reaches key vulnerable populations — 78 percent of SNAP households include a child, an elderly person, or a person with disabilities; 84 percent of all SNAP benefits go to such households.
- ▶ SNAP lifted 3.6 million Americans out of poverty in 2016, according to the Census Bureau’s Supplemental Poverty Measure. By providing much needed economic support, SNAP allows families to have sufficient nutrition during times of unemployment, fluctuating incomes, and low-wage work.

Nutrition and Education

- ▶ In 2016, approximately 28.3 million adults (11.5 percent of all adults) and 12.9 million children (17.5 percent of all children) lived in food-insecure households.
- ▶ Educators know that hungry children struggle to learn. Hunger impacts brain development and information processing, and can cause difficulty with academic achievement.
- ▶ Research has found that receipt of SNAP in early childhood results in improved high school graduation rates, adult earnings, and adult health.

Protect and Strengthen SNAP

- ▶ Even as our economy continues to strengthen, many individuals and families with children continue to experience food insecurity. Now is not the time to cut SNAP or reduce eligibility; reauthorization of the Farm Bill is an opportunity to strengthen the program and invest in children’s health and well-being.