



The Research Packet For
THE SNAP TASK FORCE
Meeting of March 2019



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SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE

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I. United States Department of Agriculture



New Analysis of Adults Subject to SNAP Time Limit Rules Change

<https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-publications-and-findings/publications/proposed-changes-to-the-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-waivers-to-work-related-time>

Mathematica Policy Research estimates that of the 1.2 million adults who did not work 20 hours per week but lived in areas for which the SNAP time limit was waived in FY 2017, 88 percent had incomes below half of the poverty level; about one third lived in households with reported incomes, but those incomes averaged just 43 percent of the poverty line; 11 percent were working though less than 20 hours per week; six percent lived with someone else who was working; and five percent lived with someone with a disability. The report, "Proposed Changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Waivers to Work-Related Time Limits," undertaken with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Reaching Those in Need: Estimates of State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates in FY 2016

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/reaching-those-need-estimates-state-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-participation-rates-fy>

This report – part of an annual series – presents estimates, by State, of the percentage of eligible persons and working poor individuals who participated in SNAP during an average month in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and in the two previous fiscal years.

Nationally, the SNAP participation rate among all eligible persons was 85 percent in FY 2016. The participation rate for eligible working poor individuals was significantly lower, at 75 percent. Participation rates for all eligible persons varied from State to State, ranging from a low of 56 percent to a high of 100 percent. Participation rate estimates for the working poor also varied widely across States. In no State was the rate for working poor people higher than the rate for all eligible people.

- NY State Participation Rate of all eligible people: 93%
- NY State Participation Rate of working poor: 81%

Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2017

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/characteristics-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-households-fiscal-year-2017>

The Characteristics report is published annually, dating back to 1976, and provides information about the demographic and economic circumstances of SNAP households. Using a sample of SNAP Quality Control (QC) data that is representative at both the State and national level, this report summarizes the characteristics of households and individuals who participated in SNAP in fiscal year 2017.

Identifying Program Components and Practices that Influence Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Application Processing Timeliness Rates

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/identifying-program-components-and-practices-influence-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>

This study sought to better understand the root causes of SNAP application timeliness concerns. A comprehensive in-depth study of program components and practices adopted by the 50 States and the District of Columbia to process SNAP applications was conducted. The study objectives are to understand the characteristics of States' application processing procedures and examine what facilitates or impedes States' ability to meet Federal requirements for application timeliness.

Between FY 2012 and FY 2015, States demonstrated improvements in SNAP application processing timeliness (APT) performance. The number of States that achieved Timely APT status doubled from 5 to 10 States (Table 1) and the mean APT rate increased by 3.5 percentage points from 86.68 percent to 90.18 percent.

States reported several practices they felt improved APT. States most frequently described the Telephone Interview in lieu of the Face-to-Face Interview Waiver as having a positive effect on APT. States also felt implementing Business Process Reengineering (BPR) initiatives, workflow analyses, or process management strategies resulted in workflow improvements in existing SNAP certification processing procedures. Some States also transitioned toward new task-based certification processing models to improve timeliness.

Table 2. Mean Application Processing Timeliness (APT) Rates by Fiscal Year (FY)

	Mean APT Rates for 50 States and the District of Columbia			
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Mean (percent)	86.68	87.71	86.93	90.18

State Profile: New York

The SNAP Timeliness Study

SNAP Program Name	SNAP
State or County Administered	County Administered

State-Level Application Processing Timeliness (APT)

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Application Processing Timeliness Rates ⁶³	90.38	91.89	83.36	87.08

SNAP Provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 - Information Memorandum

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/snap-provisions-agriculture-improvement-act-2018-information-memorandum>

On December 20, 2018, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) was reauthorized as part of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the Act) [P.L. 115-334]. Attached is an information memorandum describing SNAP provisions and effective dates. Regulations reflecting revisions to SNAP made by the Act will be published as soon as possible. Please forward the attached memorandum to your State commissioners.

This memo details EBT, quality control, the elimination of state performance bonuses, SNAP-Ed, and thrifty food plan re-evaluation.

SNAP Provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 - Section 4004 - Information Memorandum

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/snap-provisions-agriculture-improvement-act-2018-section-4004-information-memorandum>

This memo focuses on the homeless shelter deduction (\$147.55).

SNAP Section 4005 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 - Informational Memorandum

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/snap-section-4005-agriculture-improvement-act-2018-informational-memorandum>

This memo focuses on Education and Training work programs.

II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



200% of Poverty Income Standards Chart – June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020

<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2019/19DC021.pdf>

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently published its annual update of the HHS poverty guidelines to account for increases in prices over the last calendar year as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The figures on the chart provided below represent 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a given family size, both by monthly and annual income.

These revised figures are effective June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020. The revised chart should be used when determining eligibility for TANF-funded “non-assistance” programs consistent with the provisions outlined in 00-LCM-20, TANF Services for Individuals and Families with Incomes up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and by 16-LCM-03 which made changes to the LDSS-4725 TANF Services Application/Certification Review From (Rev. 2/16); the LDSS-4726 TANF Services Application/Certification (Rev. 2/16); and the LDSS-4770 TANF Youth Services Application (Rev. 2/16).

200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines Chart
June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Monthly Income</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>
1	\$2,082	\$24,980
2	\$2,818	\$33,820
3	\$3,555	\$42,660
4	\$4,292	\$51,500
5	\$5,028	\$60,340
6	\$5,765	\$69,180
7	\$6,502	\$78,020
8	\$7,238	\$86,860

III. New York City Human Resources Administration



HRA Bulletin – March SNAP Benefits Early Disbursement

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/index.page>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING MARCH SNAP BENEFITS

- If you are a SNAP recipient in New York City, you will receive your March benefits between March 1 and 7, 2019.
- This means you might see your benefits earlier than usual.
- Please check your balance and budget accordingly.
- Go to nyc.gov/accesshra or log on to the  **ACCESS HRA mobile app** to check your benefits balance.



For more information visit nyc.gov/hra,
or call HRA InfoLine **718-557-1399**.

IV. Reports, News and Notable Items

Center For American Progress - Trump's Effort to Cut SNAP by Fiat Would Kill 178,000 Jobs Over the Next Decade

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/poverty/news/2019/03/14/466700/trumps-effort-cut-snap-fiat-kill-178000-jobs-next-decade/>

In addition to boosting economic growth, SNAP enables hundreds of thousands of American workers to find or keep jobs by sustaining demand for groceries in businesses across the nation. Updating the results of previous CAP analysis, the authors estimate that every \$1 billion spent by SNAP recipients supports 12,748 jobs. In 2018, that means that more than 782,600 workers were employed because of the SNAP program. If Trump's proposed rule goes into effect next year, cutting \$1.5 billion per year from SNAP, it would result in nearly 18,900 jobs lost in 2020 alone, and more than 178,000 job-years lost over the next decade. Applying this analysis to the larger proposed cuts to SNAP in Trump's latest budget proposal—totaling \$17.1 billion in 2020 and \$220 billion over the next 10 years—would result in 221,815 jobs lost in 2020 alone, and more than 2.8 million job-years lost over the next decade. A job-year is one year of one full-time job.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities - 2020 Trump Budget: A Disturbing Vision

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/2020-trump-budget-a-disturbing-vision>

The budget would cut assistance that helps struggling families afford the basics, including food and rent. It targets for deep cuts benefits and services for people of modest means, even as it confers large tax cuts on those at the top. It would cut SNAP (food stamps) by \$220 billion (about 30 percent) over ten years, cut basic assistance for people with disabilities through Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income, reduce supports to poor families with children through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and eliminate the Social Services Block Grant. The budget calls for deep cuts in public housing, a critical source of affordable housing, and would raise rents for millions of low-income households receiving rental assistance (including both those living in public and private housing).

The budget also calls for policies that would take away assistance — including health care, food assistance, and housing assistance — from individuals who do not meet a work requirement. Significant evidence shows, however, that taking away assistance when individuals are not employed or enrolled in job programs does little to improve longer-term employment outcomes, while leaving many worse off when they lose needed assistance. According to a recent report from the National Academy of Sciences, “It appears that work requirements are at least as likely to increase as to decrease poverty.” That has been the case recently in Arkansas, the one state that has implemented a Medicaid waiver that takes away coverage from individuals not meeting a work requirement; as of January, more than 1 in 5 of those subject to the new policy had lost Medicaid, while only a few hundred had newly gained jobs or increased their work hours.[3] The President's budget proposal, when fully in effect, would cut the number of people receiving

Medicaid by roughly 1.7 million people, based on the Administration's own estimates of the resulting budget savings.

FRAC - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Initiatives to Make SNAP Benefits More Adequate Significantly Improve Food Security, Nutrition, and Health

<http://frac.org/research/resource-library/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-initiatives-to-make-snap-benefits-more-adequate-significantly-improve-food-security-nutrition-and-health>

The monthly benefits provided by SNAP enhance the food purchasing power of eligible low-income individuals and families. However, the greatest shortcoming of SNAP is that benefits for most households are not enough to get through the entire month without hunger or being forced to sacrifice nutrition quality. This limitation persists even in the face of overwhelming evidence on the gains from more adequate monthly SNAP benefits.

This paper analyzes why SNAP benefits are inadequate, reviews the body of research showing positive effects from more adequate SNAP benefits, and offers key policy solutions to improve benefit adequacy.

To make SNAP a fully effective antidote to food insecurity and a far more effective boost to nutrition, health, and child development and learning, the following actions to improve SNAP benefit adequacy should be considered:

- Replace the Thrifty Food Plan with the more appropriate Low-Cost Food Plan as the basis for SNAP benefits;
- Eliminate the cap on the SNAP Excess Shelter Deduction;
- Raise the minimum SNAP benefit; and
- Authorize a SNAP Standard Excess Medical Deduction for persons who are elderly or have disabilities

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2019**