



The Research Packet For
THE SNAP TASK FORCE

Meeting of April 19, 2018



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I. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1. THE FOOD ASSISTANCE LANDSCAPE: FY2017 ANNUAL REPORT, MARCH 2018

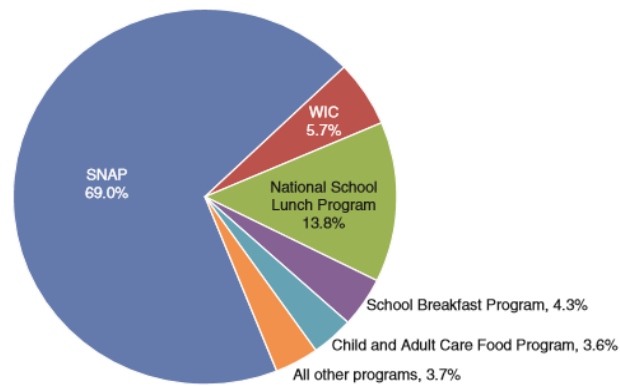
<https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/88074/eib-190.pdf?v=43174>

The report examines trends in the fifteen USDA food and nutrition assistance programs through fiscal year FY 2017.

Report Findings:

- In FY 2017 USDA's spending on food and nutrition assistance programs totaled \$98.6 billion, four percent less than in the previous fiscal year and 10 percent less than historical high of \$109.2 billion set in FY 2013.
- SNAP accounted for sixty-nine percent of all Federal food and nutrition assistance programs spending. On average 42.2 million persons per month participated, almost five percent fewer than in previous fiscal year. Reflecting the decrease in participation, Federal spending on SNAP totaled \$68 billion. A four percent decrease from the previous fiscal year.
- On average 7.3 million people per month participated in WIC, five percent fewer than previous fiscal year. This was the fewest number of participants in 17 years.
- On average 30.3 million children participated in the National School Lunch Program, six percent fewer than in FY 2011.
- An average of 14.7 million children participated in School Breakfast Program, one percent more than in previous fiscal year.
- Child and Adult Care Food Program totaled 3.5 billion, an increase of less than 1 percent over the previous fiscal year.
- An estimated 41.2 million people experienced food insecurity during the 2017. An estimated fifty-nine percent of food-insecure households in 2016 participated in SNAP, WIC, and/or received free or reduced-priced lunch.
- Daily food expenditures were sustained higher on days just after SNAP benefits receipt in comparison to days during the rest of the month.

Summary figure 1
USDA food and nutrition assistance expenditures by program, FY 2017
 SNAP accounted for over two-thirds of food and nutrition assistance expenditures



SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
 WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.
 Expenditures for all food and nutrition programs totaled \$98.6 billion.
 Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service.

2. **PRESS RELEASE: USDA EXPANDS FOCUS ON PROGRAM INTEGRITY ACROSS ALL NUTRITION PROGRAMS,, MARCH 29, 2018**

<<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2018/007218>>

USDA has announced an enhanced focus on program integrity that will include renewed attention to transparency, payment accuracy, fraud and waste prevention, and improved quality control. To launch this renewed commitment Acting Deputy Under Secretary Lipps announced the intention to create a new position of Chief Integrity Officer to manage oversight, improvements, and overall integrity strategy. This position will oversee integrity initiatives in all 15 federal feeding programs and will be located in the Office of Administrator at FNS.

In addition, FNS has initiated an independent third-party review of its integrity efforts across nutrition programs. The review will support the identification of improvements to the process currently in place, as well as explore the implementation of best practices across government and private sector.

II. **NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE**



1. **NEW YORK STATE PARTICIPATION AND BENEFIT VALUE IN JANUARY 218**

<<https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/>>

According to the latest data from OTDA, SNAP participation across New York State decreased slightly from December 2017 to January 2018. Benefits also saw a slight dip

during this time-period. In New York City, 1,635,537 individuals received \$235,869,380 in SNAP benefits. The average SNAP benefit received by NYC households was \$253.

	PERSONS			HOUSEHOLDS			BENEFITS		
	DECEMBER 2017	JANUARY 2018	PERCENT CHANGE	DECEMBER 2017	JANUARY 2018	PERCENT CHANGE	DECEMBER 2017	JANUARY 2018	PERCENT CHANGE
New York State	2,833,768	2,831,503	-0.08%	1,578,862	1,580,152	0.08%	\$388,109,089	\$384,734,259	-0.09%
New York City	1,635,635	1,635,537	-0.01%	931,216	932,500	0.14%	\$238,213,698	\$235,869,380	-0.10%
Rest of State	1,198,133	1,195,966	-0.18%	647,646	647,652	0.00%	\$149,895,391	\$148,864,879	0.07%

	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE			AVERAGE BENEFITS PER HOUSEHOLD		
	DECEMBER 2017	JANUARY 2018	PERCENT CHANGE	DECEMBER 2017	JANUARY 2018	PERCENT CHANGE
New York State	1.795	1.792	-0.17%	\$245.81	\$243.48	-0.94%
New York City	1.756	1.754	-0.11%	\$255.81	\$252.94	-0.11%
Rest of State	1.850	1.847	-0.16%	\$231.45	\$231.39	-0.03%

2. PRESS RELEASE:

OTDA HIGHLIGHTS NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR OLDER NEW YORKERS AS PART OF "MARCH FOR MEALS" CAMPAIGN, MARCH 19, 2018

< <https://otda.ny.gov/news/2018/2018-03-19.asp>>

OTDA highlighted the importance of good nutrition for older adults during an event in Syracuse supporting the national March for Meals campaign; an initiative were Meals on Wheels programs across the country raise awareness about nutritional needs of frail older adults and importance of healthy meals and nutrition education. OTDA Commissioner Samuel D. Roberts helped serve lunch at the Dunbar Association, a congregate meals site location.

"Good nutrition is fundamental to good health and these needs are more critical as we age especially for those experiencing or recovering from chronic health problems," said Commissioner Samuel D. Roberts."

New York State's commitment to nutritional needs of older adults is unmatched across the country for New York State serves 23 million meals annually to 243,000 older adults and provides at least \$53 million more for home delivered and

congregate meals than any other state. New York also ranks first in the nation for the number of people receiving nutrition services and supports.

In addition, New York State has also been a leader in implementing policies and programs designed to help alleviate food insecurity among older New Yorkers. SNAP provides food assistance to more than 2.8 million, 1 in 5 of which are older adults. SNAP outreach and application assistance is carried out at congregate meals sites and with home delivery of meals.

3. GENERAL INFORMATIONAL SYSTEM 18 TA/DC010: HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOMINAL BENEFIT ADVANCE PAYMENT, MARCH 30, 2018

<<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2018/18DC011.pdf>>

OTDA has informed social service districts that the 2018-19 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Nominal Benefit Advance Payment is available starting April 1, 2018. Districts must continue to determine 2017-18 HEAP benefit eligibility through April 27, 2018. An advance payment of \$21 must be authorized to newly eligible and recertified HEAP eligible SNAP households not incurring a separate cost for heating/cooling expenses. These households must not have received a HEAP benefit during the month of application or the preceding twelve months. This authorization will allow for household's to qualify for the highest Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) thereby maximizing the SNAP month benefit.



III. NEW YORK CITY HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

1. HRA COMMUNITY PARTNERS WEBPAGE LAUNCH

<<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/partners/partners.page>>

HRA has launched an exciting new page on their website titled Community Partners. Information on Access HRA, On-Demand Interviewing, Access HRA Training opportunities, User Guides and other tools that are available to clients and providers can be accessed from one place.

2. POLICY BULLETINS AND DIRECTIVES

➤ POLICY BULLETIN # 18-05-SYS: WELFARE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (WMS) SOFTWARE RELEASE VERSION 2018.1, MARCH 8, 2018

This policy informs HRA staff of WMS changes that became available with the February 18, 2018 WMS Software Release Version 2018:

- New Case Level and Client Level SNAP Opening Reason Codes.-

SNAP reopening code Y21 (Reopen case/line for Aid to Continue) was created.

- Update to SNAP Reporting Requirements for Elderly and/or Disabled Individuals - Previously households in which all members are elderly and/or disabled with no earned income will continue to receive a 24 month recertification period and receive the LDSS-3151 in the 11th month of the certification period. With this release household in which the adult members are elderly and/or disabled and have earned income will receive a 12-month recertification period and receive the periodic report (LDSS-4310 in the 5th month of certification).
- Real-time Applicant Social Security Number (SSN) Validation for NYC WMS - During the application process WMS will connect to the Social Security Administration (SSA) with an applicant's demographic information to confirm the corresponding SSN is correct for the applicant.

➤ *POLICY BULLETIN #18-20-OPE: ACCESS HRA SNAP PERIODIC REPORT, March 30, 2018*

Inform HRA staff of the following revisions to policy regarding the Periodic Report (LDSS-4316) made available online via Access HRA on November 17, 2017:

- Information on the SNAP Request for Contact/Missed Interview (LDSS-4753) form.
- A Case Alert appears on Overview screen, stating "E-Periodic Report Submitted via Access HRA." for Periodic Reports submitted online within the past 90 days, a Case Alert appears on the Overview screen, stating "E-Periodic Report Submitted via Access HRA."
- Information is provided regarding the sections of the SNAP Change Case Data Activity.
- Information on adding and removing a household member was updated.

During the fifth month of the twelve month certification period households are mailed the Periodic Report (LDSS-4310). The Periodic Report must be completed, signed and returned to HRA by the tenth day of the sixth month of their certification period.

An additional notice has been added to the LDSS-4310 and the Follow-up to the Periodic Report (LDSS-4310A) mailing informing participants that they can now submit the Periodic Report online starting the first day of the sixth month of their certification period at www.nyc.gov/accesshra, and can submit documents using the Access HRA mobile application. Participants will be mailed the "Reminder: Don't Lose Your SNAP Benefits! Submit Your SNAP Periodic Report" (FIA-1198) form on the 25th – 27th day of the fifth month of their certification period. **See Appendix A.**

SNAP participants with an Access HRA account will be sent an email and/or text message notifying them when their Periodic Report period opens and a reminder on the tenth day of the sixth month their certification period if the Periodic Report has not yet been submitted. Participants who submit a Periodic Report online or by mail/fax will be able to return any eligibility documents using the self-service scanner at a SNAP Center until the end of the seventh month of their twelve month certification period. Mailer and Match Action Program (MMAP) staff will see. The Notice of Documentation Required – Change in Household Circumstances (W-132S) will be issued for documentation not found. **See Appendix B.** The W-132S is mailed if the household reported a change that may result in an increase of benefits.

III. Reports and Notable Items from Other Sources

1. REPORT FROM HUNGER SOLUTIONS NEW YORK:

- *BRIDGING THE GAP: ENDING STUDENT HUNGER WITH BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL, MARCH 2018*
<https://hungersolutionsny.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018-SB-Report-in-pages-no-bleed-3_5_18.pdf>

The report analyzes state and district level participation in the School Breakfast Program in New York State public schools during the 2016-2017 school year. New York State continues to underperform reaching low-income children with free and reduced-price breakfast. During the 2016-2017 school year less than 1 in 3 low income students ate free and reduce-price school breakfast, resulting in a 35 ranking in a national evaluation of state's performance. One in five children are food insecure, meaning they lack access to food for an active, healthy life. Statewide, 63% (over 1.6 million students) enrolled in public schools that qualify for free and reduce meals.

Over two thirds (66%) of low-income children participate in lunch, while only one-third (32%) participate in breakfast. Many schools across NYS are closing the participation gap between school breakfast and lunch. School districts that are leading the state with strong breakfast participation have implemented universal breakfast after the bell programs.

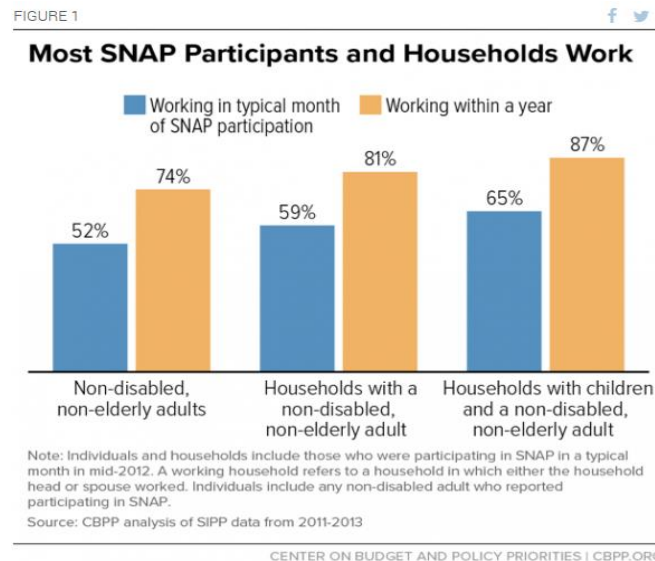
State legislation to require universal Breakfast After the Bell is the most efficient and cost effective way to increase participation in school breakfast. Current policy requires schools with 40% or more students qualifying for free and reduced price meals to operate the School Breakfast Program with the state contributing additional funding.

2. MOST WORKING-AGE SNAP PARTICIPANTS WORK, BUT OFTEN IN UNSTABLE JOBS FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE, MARCH 15, 2018

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/most-working-age-snap-participants-work-but-often-in-unstable-jobs>

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) conducted an analysis of work and SNAP participation among adults not receiving disability benefits. First examining participants who receive SNAP in a specific month in mid-2012 observing their work the year before and after that month without regard to their SNAP participation during the other months. Second, examining a group of non-disabled adults who receive SNAP at any point in a roughly 3.5-year period from mid-2009 through mid-2013. The analysis found:

Nearly three-quarters of adults who participate in SNAP in a typical month worked either that month or within a year of that month. Over half of individuals who were participating in SNAP in mid-2012 were working in that month. Seventy-four percent worked in the year before or after that month. Employment rates were even higher when counting work among other household members.



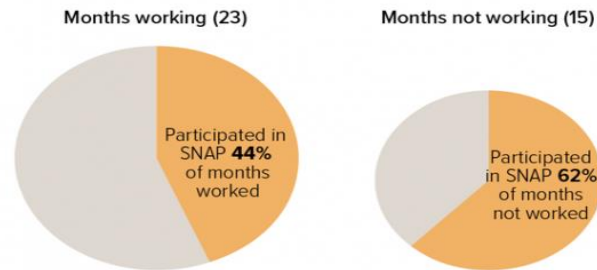
Participants often experience periods of joblessness and are more likely to participate in SNAP when they are out of work. SNAP participants during the 3.5 year study period worked most months in that time but were more likely to participate when were out of work. They participated in SNAP 44 percent of the months they were working and in 62 percent of the months in which they were not working.

FIGURE 2



SNAP Participants Work in Most Months, But Are Likelier to Participate When Not Working

Average months of SNAP participation and work for non-elderly, non-disabled adults



Notes: This includes non-elderly, non-disabled adults who participated in SNAP at some point over a 44-month period from fall 2009 through mid-2013, but only includes the months in which the individual was in the sample, aged 18-59, and not receiving disability benefits—on average about 39 months total. Average months working and not working do not appear to sum to 39 because of rounding.

Source: CBPP analysis of SIPP data from 2009-2013

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG



IV. Hunger and Poverty in the Media

1. NATIONAL

- *“TRUMP ORDER TARGETS WIDE SWATH OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS”, THE HILL, APRIL 14, 2018*
[<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/383106-trump-order-targets-wide-swath-of-public-assistance-programs>](http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/383106-trump-order-targets-wide-swath-of-public-assistance-programs)

The White House put out an executive order instructing agencies across the government to create new rules requiring recipients of social safety net programs meet newly developed work requirements. The order is directed at “any program that provides means-tested assistance or other assistance that provides benefits to people, households or families that have low incomes.” The executive order convolutes “welfare” or TANF with a host of other public assistance programs. The order is designed to offer a path forward for these agencies to act without congress in order to make these changes to work requirements for programs including Medicaid, housing assistance, and SNAP (among others).

- *“HOUSE DEBUTS FARM BILL CALLING FOR BIG CHANGES TO FOOD STAMPS”, POLITICO, APRIL 12, 2018*
[<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/04/12/house-farm-bill-food-stamps-519161>](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/04/12/house-farm-bill-food-stamps-519161)

House Agriculture Committee's first draft of the 2018 Farm Bill was released on 4/12. The bill expands work requirements for able-bodied adults between the

ages of 18-60 and able-bodied adults with children over 6 years old. The bill also severs the ties between SNAP and LIHEAP, which was used as a tool to remove people from SNAP rolls in the 2015 Farm Bill, with many states stepping in to assist and ensure SNAP recipients. The bill also ends broad based categorical eligibility and changes the poverty level for qualifying to receive benefits and more. Mark up is expected on 4/17 from the Ag committee. It will then move to the floor. The Senate has not released its version of the Farm Bill as of yet. The bill was released after House Ag democrats ceased talks on the bill because of proposed cuts to SNAP through changing eligibility rules. A CBO, including how many will be kicked off the program as well as anticipated costs and "savings" is forthcoming at this time.

➤ *"WHAT CHILDREN UNDERSTAND ABOUT FOOD INSECURITY", CIVIL EATS, APRIL MARCH 26, 2018*

<https://civileats.com/2018/03/26/what-children-understand-about-food-insecurity/?utm_source=Benefits+Data+Trust&utm_campaign=373a5acdfd-External+Newsletter+-+November+27th+2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8a809ad32a-373a5acdfd-49832133>

Covers the impacts of children living in food insecure homes including ways they attempt to make up for lost food dollars through odd jobs or skipping meals. Children in food insecure homes had been widely thought to be unaware of their situations but this article details all the ways children are cognizant and impacting, even further on in life, by the experiences associated with food insecurity including the stigma attached to it.

APPENDIX A



Date: _____
 Case Number: _____
 Case Name: _____

**Reminder: Don't Lose Your SNAP Benefits!
 Submit Your SNAP Periodic Report**

To avoid losing your SNAP benefits, you must submit a Periodic Report form six months after you enroll in SNAP or recertify your SNAP benefits. Your SNAP Periodic Report is due _____. There are different ways to submit your Periodic Report form, but the easiest and fastest way is to submit it online – and you can do that now! It takes less than 30 minutes.

Step 1: Submit Your SNAP Periodic Report Form.



SAMPLE

1. Go to www.nyc.gov/accesshra
2. Log into your account (or set one up)
3. Click the green "Apply Now" button
4. Click "I would like to SUBMIT a PERIODIC REPORT"
5. Fill out your information and submit your form

*Did you already submit your Periodic Report form?
 Go right to step 2.*

Step 2: Submit Documents About Changes In Your Case.



Do you have documents to submit that are listed on the "Confirmation Page" of your completed Periodic Report?

Download the NYC ACCESS HRA mobile app for free on iOS or Android devices! Go to the Apple App Store or Google Play store.

1. Log into your account (or set one up)
2. Tap Upload
3. Upload and submit your documents

*Need help?
 Call the SNAP Info Line at _____*

APPENDIX B

Date: _____
 Case Number: _____
 Case Name: _____
 NCA SNAP Center: _____

Notice of Documentation Required – Change in Household Circumstances

You did not provide proof of a change in your case that may increase your benefits. Under Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) rules, you must prove a change in circumstances that will give you more benefits before we can increase them.

The SNAP Documentation Guide (**W-129G**), sent with this letter, gives examples of documents you can use to prove the change you reported.

Documents are due by: _____

Copies of documents can be returned by:

- ACCESS HRA mobile application
 - Download the ACCESS HRA mobile app to submit requested documents.
 - Go to the Apple App store or Google Play store and search for "ACCESS HRA," or go to www.nyc.gov/accesshramobile.
- Fax
 - Bronx and Queens – (917) 639-1113
 - Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Staten Island – (917) 639-2544
- Mail
 - Return the documents in the self-addressed envelope that was sent with this letter.

(Turn page)

Please provide proof of:

- Income: _____

- Household composition/size: _____

- Shelter expenses (e.g., rent or mortgage payments): _____

- Child care or dependent care costs: _____

- Medical expenses: _____

- Immigration status: _____

- Other/Remarks: _____

SAMPLE

Worker's Name

Date

Do you have a medical or mental health condition or disability? Does this condition make it hard for you to understand this notice or to do what this notice is asking? Does this condition make it hard for you to get other services at HRA? **We can help you.** Call us at 212-331-4640. You can also ask for help when you visit an HRA office. You have a right to ask for this kind of help under the law.

**THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY
2018**