



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



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SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE

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I. United States Department of Agriculture



USDA Urges States to Require Child Support Cooperation through SNAP

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/SNAP-child-support-policy-050119.pdf>

Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture published a [memorandum to state agencies](#) (PDF, 156 KB) encouraging them to require Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants to cooperate with child support programs.

"We want states to take action to ensure that SNAP and child support work together to help children," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. "Increasing the number of states that implement child support cooperation requirements will benefit families, help non-custodial parents assume responsibility for the well-being and stability of their children, and provide more children with the support they deserve. We stand ready to provide technical assistance to any state interested in implementing this policy."

USDA views the option to establish SNAP child support cooperation requirements as a good strategy to promote responsibility among both non-custodial and custodial parents to provide more children with the support they deserve.

USDA Encourages Producers, Rural Communities to Prepare Before Hurricane Season

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/05/09/usda-encourages-producers-rural-communities-prepare-hurricane>

May 5 to May 11, 2019, is National Hurricane Preparedness Week, and the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) reminds rural communities, farmers and ranchers, families and small businesses of assistance we can provide should they be impacted by severe weather this hurricane season. The 2019 Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1. In the event of hurricanes, USDA can provide a wide range of help to those impacted.

In a continuing effort to serve the public, USDA partnered with FEMA and other disaster-focused organizations and created the Disaster Resource Center website, located at www.usda.gov/topics/disaster. This central source of information utilizes a searchable knowledgebase of disaster-related resources powered by agents with subject matter expertise. The Disaster Resource Center website provides an easy access point to find USDA disaster information and assistance.

USDA Online SNAP Purchasing Pilot

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot>

The 2014 Farm Bill mandated that a pilot project be conducted to test the possibility of allowing retail food stores to accept SNAP benefits through online transactions. Under the pilot, SNAP recipients will be able to use their benefits to purchase eligible food items online at specific retailers. Participants will need a supplemental payment source for any items that may not be purchased with SNAP benefits, or to pay fees, such as the cost of delivery. USDA selected seven retailers nationally to participate in the pilot, including online retailers, large grocery chains and smaller regional networks of stores. New York was chosen as a pilot state and will be the first state to go live with online shopping capability at three retailers, initially in a limited number of designated zip codes. Amazon and Walmart will begin on Thursday, April 18, 2019, and ShopRite (Wakefern) will start the following week on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Amazon:

Amazon will be functional for its full pilot coverage on April 18, 2019. Amazon programs include Prime Fresh, Prime Pantry, and other options that may be available which are best discussed between the retailer and customer. There are fees associated with all Amazon options. Amazon is the only retailer who is NOT accepting EBT Cash. Clients will need another form of payment for any fee.

Pilot Stores: Online - fully functional for Zip Code coverage area
 EBT SNAP: Yes
 EBT Cash: No - will need another form of cash payment for fees / subscriptions
 Fees: Yes
 Zip Code Coverage: See Amazon website. (Pilot to include New York City and parts of Long Island and Westchester County)

ShopRite (Wakefern):

ShopRite will launch the pilot in one store on Staten Island beginning 4/24/19. A shopping and delivery fee will be assessed. ShopRite plans to expand to two additional stores on Staten Island first and then to its broader full pilot coverage plan. No timetable or store plan has been determined for expansion.

Pilot Stores 4/28/19: 1 (#109 - Forest & Richmond Ave, Staten Island)
 Pilot Stores: 27 (22 NY, 5 NJ who will deliver to some zip codes in NY)
 EBT SNAP: Yes
 EBT Cash: Yes
 Fees: Yes
 Zip Code Coverage: See ShopRite website

II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



Temporary Assistance Budgeting: 2019 Earned Income Disregard and Poverty Level Test

<https://otda.ny.gov/policy/directives/2019/ADM/19-ADM-04.pdf>

This Administrative Directive (ADM) advises social services districts (districts) of a change in the Earned Income Disregard (EID) and Poverty Level Income Test for the Temporary Assistance (TA) budgeting process. Effective June 1, 2019, the EID will increase from 52% to 53% and districts must begin using the new EID for eligible cases with an Automated Budgeting and Eligibility Logic (ABEL) budget "From Date" of June 1, 2019, or later.

2019 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Size of Family Unit	Annual Poverty Guidelines
1	\$12,490
2	\$16,910
3	\$21,330
4	\$25,750
5	\$30,170
6	\$34,590
7	\$39,010
8	\$43,430
Each Additional Person	+\$4,420

Monthly Caseload Statistics –February 2019

<https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/2019/2019-02-stats.pdf>

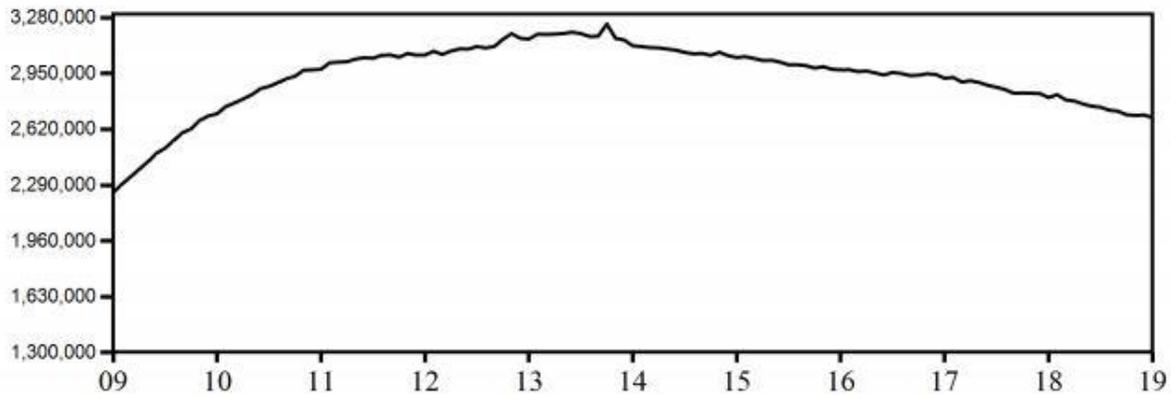
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

	This Month	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
	2,690,578	-14,529 (-0.5%)	-117,832 (-4.2%)
	\$367,624,250	-\$11.5 mil (-3.0%)	-\$12.3 mil (-3.2%)

Table 2
 TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS
 February 2019

Region	Recipients				
	Temporary Assistance by Program			Supplemental Security Income	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
	Total	Family Assistance-FP	Safety Net Assistance		
New York State	491,918	186,063	305,855	678,277	2,690,578
New York City	333,620	109,351	224,269	406,518	1,564,537
Rest of State	158,298	76,712	81,586	271,759	1,126,041

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Recipients



III. New York City Human Resources Administration

Policy Bulletin # 19-25-EMP – May 01, 2019 - Reasonable Accommodations and Their Role in resolving Potential Negative Case Actions

The purpose of this policy bulletin is to remind Family Independence Administration (FIA) staff conducting conciliation and Fair Hearing Administration (FHA) staff conducting conference, pre notice of intent (NOI) reviews, an Pre Fair Hearing file reviews that disabilities and the need for reasonable accommodations to comply with agency requirements must be considered when addressing an infraction.

A reasonable accommodation (RA) is a change or adjustment to agency policies and procedures to avoid discrimination based on disability and to afford qualified individuals with meaningful access to the benefits and services provided by HRA

Policy Bulletin # 19-23 –OPE – April 23, 2019 – Fair Hearing - Same Day Resolution Conference

The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform all Fair Hearing staff of the Same Day Resolution Conference (SDRC) process.

A Fair Hearing is an administrative process conducted by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)/NYS Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), through which an applicant/participant can challenge decisions related to the receipt of benefits and services concerning Cash Assistance (CA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provided by the Human Resource Administration (HRA). Once an applicant/ participant request a FH, they are referred to as an appellant.

The HRA's Office of Legal Affairs/Fair Hearing Administrative (OLA/FHA) has developed the SDRC to streamline the Agency's FH process, and to provide adequate and timely delivery of services and benefits to applicants/participants. At SDRC the appellant has the opportunity on the day of the schedule FH to meet with the conference supervisor /SDRC Associate Job Opportunity Specialist (AJOS I) to discuss and potentially resolve the issue(s) for the FH in a conference. In the conference, the appellant may present documents, establish facts and circumstance to resolve the issues(s) and question or refute any actions taken on their case.

The SDRC will be conducted at OAH, located at 14 Boerum Place, Brooklyn NY

IV. Reports, News and Notable Items

Trump Administration Floating Changes to Poverty Measure That Would Reduce or Eliminate Assistance to Millions of Lower –Income Americans – Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

<https://www.cbpp.org/press/statements/trump-administration-floating-changes-to-poverty-measure-that-would-reduce-or>

The Trump Administration yesterday floated a [proposal](#) to use a lower measure of inflation when adjusting the poverty line each year. Consistent with other policies the Administration has pursued, this policy would over time cut or take away entirely food assistance, health, and other forms of basic assistance from millions of people who struggle to put food on the table, keep a roof over their heads, and see a doctor when they need to.

If the poverty line is altered in this fashion, fewer individuals and families will qualify over time for various forms of assistance, including many who work hard but are paid low wages. That's because using a lower measure of inflation like the chained CPI to adjust the poverty line each year would make the eligibility thresholds for various programs that serve people in need lower and lower over time, compared with what the thresholds otherwise would be. This, in turn, would lower the income eligibility limits for programs like SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) and Medicaid, which are tied to the federal poverty line. It also would reduce the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) premium tax credits — and thereby increase the out-of-pocket premium charges faced by millions of people who purchase health insurance through the ACA marketplaces.

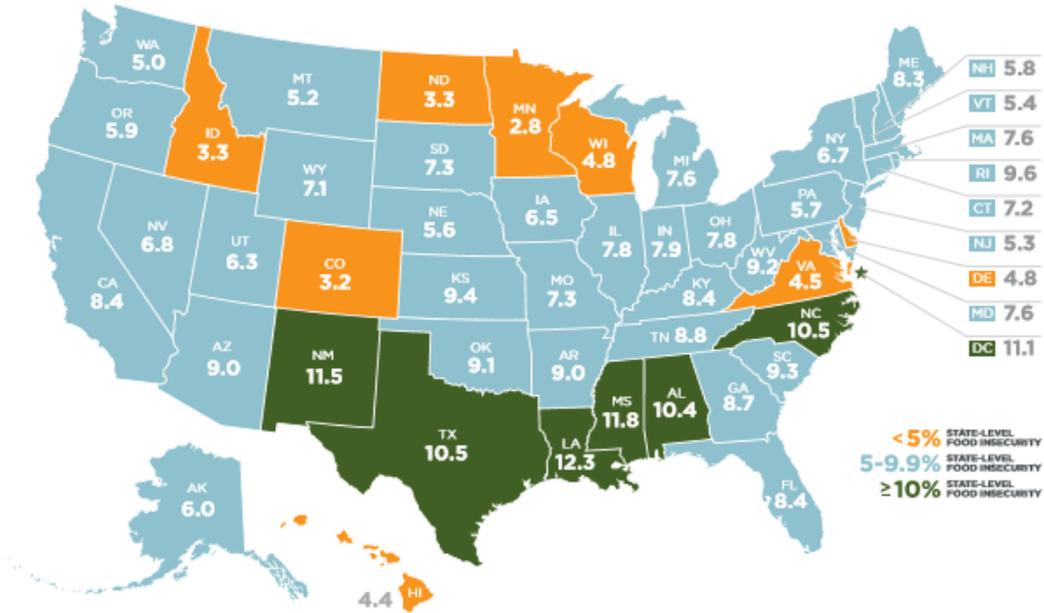
Senior Food Insecurity Studies

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/senior-hunger-research/senior>

The State of Senior Hunger in America annual report series documents the prevalence of food insecurity among the senior population age 60 and older in the United States.

The most recent report, released in 2019 using 2017 data, found that 5.5 million seniors, or 7.7% of the senior population, were food insecure in 2017. The rate of food insecurity among seniors is lower in recent years but remains significantly higher than it was in 2007. The current number of seniors who are food insecure is more than double what it was in 2001. State-level rates of food insecurity among seniors range from 2.8% in Minnesota to 12.3% in Louisiana. For the first time, the study now includes analysis of metropolitan areas, with senior food insecurity rates ranging from 3% in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area to 17.3% in the Memphis area.

STATE-LEVEL SENIOR FOOD INSECURITY RATES IN 2017



Every state is home to seniors who experience food insecurity.

THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY
2019