

COALITION AGAINST HUNGER FARM BILL PRIORITIES

SNAP is the cornerstone of the nation's nutrition and food security safety net, providing crucial support each month for 42 million low-income people in the US (1.9 million Pennsylvanians), including children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

SNAP has proven to:



decrease poverty
& food insecurity



improve health &
education outcomes



support the
economy

In the upcoming Farm Bill, SNAP must be protected from additional restrictions, and should be improved to better support low-income families.

Protecting and Strengthening SNAP benefits

1 Thrifty Food Plan Reevaluation

The re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan, which went into effect Oct. 2021, resulted in:

- An avg. increase of 21% to benefit amounts
- An estimated increase of \$744 million in SNAP benefits for Pennsylvania in FY 22
- An updated plan that is now in line with current dietary guidance, and includes foods that Americans actually buy and eat

2 Low Cost Food Plan

Monthly benefit amounts are still too low, especially with Emergency Allotments ending, and the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) is lower than the food cost estimates used in other government programs. Adopting the Low-Cost Food Plan, which is approximately 1/3 higher than the TFP, as the basis for SNAP would more adequately reflect the actual cost of a healthy diet.

Protecting and Increasing Access to SNAP benefits

1 SNAP Time Limit

The SNAP time limit restricts many working-age adults without dependents to only 3 months of benefits in a 3 year period unless they can document sufficient hours of work. This harsh restriction takes food off of the table for individuals without any evidence that it increases employment or earnings.

2 Access for Immigrants

Many lawfully present immigrants are currently unable to receive SNAP due to an arbitrary 5 year waiting period. This "5 year bar" harms immigrant families, including millions of children, and exacerbates long-standing racial inequalities.

3 College Student Rules

In addition to income and other rules, college students need to document sufficient hours of work or meet an exemption to receive SNAP. These rules are counterproductive, undermine student success, and are based on outdated assumptions about who is pursuing a college degree in 2023.

4 Drug Felony Ban

Under federal SNAP rules, people with prior drug felony convictions are barred from receiving SNAP. Although Pennsylvania does not currently choose to apply this rule, its existence makes re-entry and recovery from drug addiction much harder.



Founded in 1996, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger strives to build a community where all people have the food they need to lead healthy lives.

[Use QR Code To View Our Strategic Plan](#)

Sources

- [SNAP is Linked with Improved Health Outcomes and Lower Health Care Costs, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Dec 2022](#)
- [Estimated Increase in SNAP Benefits, FY 2022, USDA, August 2021](#)
- [Policy Basics: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, June 2022](#)
- [MA Food Stamps and Cash Stats, PA Department of Human Services, March 2023](#)
- [Replacing the Thrifty Food Plan in Order to Provide Adequate Allotments for SNAP Beneficiaries, Food Research and Action Center, 2012](#)
- [Time's Up for SNAP's Time Limit, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, July 2021](#)
- [Lift the Bar Act Facts, National Immigration Law Center, August 2021](#)
- [Reducing Food Insecurity Among College Students, Food Research and Action Center, August 2021](#)
- [No More Double Punishments: Lifting the Ban on SNAP and TANF for People with Prior Felony Drug Convictions, The Center for Law and Social Policy, April 2022](#)

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