



Protect Food Assistance for People With Disabilities

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** is the nation's most important and effective anti-hunger program. SNAP helps more than 42 million Americans put food on the table.

More than 10% of SNAP beneficiaries are adults with disabilities under the age of 65.	Nearly 90% of all SNAP beneficiaries live in households with disabled adults, older adults, or children.	Millions of beneficiaries with disabilities are not officially counted as “disabled” under SNAP's strict rules.
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What SNAP means for people with disabilities:

- **Food security:** The households of people with disabilities are 3 times more likely to experience food insecurity. People with disabilities often have high grocery bills due to food allergies or other medical conditions. SNAP helps them afford the nutritious meals they need.
- **Health:** Receiving SNAP benefits can improve health and reduce health care costs. SNAP helps ensure people don't have to choose between going hungry and filling a prescription.
- **Education:** Adequate nutrition improves educational outcomes. SNAP helps ensure children with disabilities are automatically enrolled in free school meal and summer meal programs.
- **Community:** SNAP benefits and SNAP-funded grocery delivery services help many people with disabilities live independently and participate in their communities.
- **Jobs:** Every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates up to \$1.80 in economic activity. From farming to retail, many people with disabilities have jobs that are created by SNAP's contributions to the local food economy.

Cutting federal funding for SNAP would:

- **Increase grocery bills and hunger:** The average daily SNAP benefit is currently only \$6.16 per person. People with disabilities are already struggling with high food costs. Any reduction in monthly benefits would make it even harder for them to make ends meet.
- **Harm local businesses:** Cutting SNAP benefits would reduce the amount of money beneficiaries can spend at local grocery stores and farmers' markets. Less demand for locally grown produce and commodities would also lead to less revenue for farmers and ranchers.
- **Squeeze state budgets:** Shifting responsibility for funding SNAP onto states would upend state budgets. SNAP is an optional program for states, so state governments may decide to address this fiscal challenge by reducing SNAP benefits, restricting eligibility, or even opting out of SNAP entirely.
- **Put programs serving people with disabilities, like Medicaid, at risk:** Cutting federal SNAP funding could force states to choose between slashing funding for food assistance, health care programs like Medicaid, public safety, or education to make up the difference.
- **Exclude vulnerable people from urgently needed food assistance:** Studies show that SNAP work requirements often cause people with disabilities to lose their benefits even when exemptions meant to protect them are in place.
- **Decrease efficiency and increase red tape:** Work requirements are extremely complex and costly for states to administer. They do not improve long-term employment outcomes and only save money if they kick enough people off the program.
- **Be unpopular with voters:** More than 85% of voters oppose cuts to SNAP.

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