



SHARE OUR STRENGTH'S NO KID HUNGRY® CAMPAIGN

In the world's wealthiest nation, no child should grow up hungry. Over the course of a year, however, more than 16 million children in America cannot count on having enough nutritious food. That's one in five kids in America today who struggle with hunger.

The No Kid Hungry® campaign catalyzes innovative coalitions among governors, mayors, businesses, chefs, teachers and community leaders across the country to connect families at risk of hunger with the programs that can help them.

Combining access with education, we also teach families how to cook healthy, affordable meals through our Cooking Matters® program.

Together, we are making No Kid Hungry a reality in America. Learn more at Strength.org.

FACT SHEET: HOW SNAP PROTECTS KIDS

Congress is working to reauthorize the Farm Bill, legislation that provides funding for the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program**, formerly known as food stamps, and for the SNAP nutrition education program. Drastic cuts to SNAP are on the table in the Farm Bill.

SNAP benefits play a crucial role in making sure that, even in tough times, kids are still getting the food they need. SNAP is the first line of defense in the battle against childhood hunger. If Congress cuts funding for this poverty-relieving program, **it will affect millions of children and families**, leaving them even more vulnerable to hunger. Here are the facts.

- **SNAP Snapshot:** A family of 3 making less than \$24,000 a year may qualify for SNAP. Their average monthly SNAP benefit per person is just \$1.48 per meal. The average amount of time a participant relies on SNAP benefits is nine months.
- **Families rely on SNAP:** Almost three-quarters of all SNAP benefits go to families with kids. Nearly half of all SNAP participants (47%) today are under the age of 18.
- **SNAP lifts kids out of poverty:** Food stamp benefits led to a decline of 4.4 percent in poverty from 2000 to 2009. In fact, SNAP benefits lifted 1.7 million kids above the poverty level in 2010.
- **SNAP protects kids from hunger:** Overall, SNAP is credited with reducing the likelihood of being food insecure by roughly 30%.
- **SNAP is efficient:** SNAP is one of the most effective and efficiently run federal programs. In 2010, its error rates were at a historic low, with more than 98 percent of SNAP benefits going to eligible households.
- **SNAP stimulates local economies:** Every \$5 in new SNAP benefits brings \$9.00 into the local community.

SOURCES

USDA Food Stamp Program:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/FactSheets/SNAP.pdf>

USDA, "Building A Healthy America: A Profile of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program."

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/published/snap/FILES/Other/BuildingHealthyAmerica.pdf>

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Policy Basics: Introduction to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 04/18/12.

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=2226>

WAYS YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

It's critical that people struggling to put food on the table have the tools they need to feed their families until they get back on their feet. Share your strength by visiting [nokidhungry.org/farmbill](http://www.nokidhungry.org/farmbill) and take action:

1. Send a message **urging your members of Congress** to protect SNAP from devastating cuts.
2. **Submit a letter to the editor** of your local newspaper, calling attention to this issue.
3. If you are one of the millions of Americans who has used SNAP or food stamp benefits to help feed your family, **please share your story** by visiting www.nokidhungry.org/farmbill.
4. Recruit your friends to take action on this issue by **posting these messages on your Facebook and Twitter**.



Join me in urging Congress to protect our nation's most vulnerable kids. Find out how at [nokidhungry.org/farmbill](http://www.nokidhungry.org/farmbill)



Urge Congress to #ProtectSNAP and make @NoKidHungry.
Take action: [nokidhungry.org/farmbill](http://www.nokidhungry.org/farmbill)