

# **SNAP Fast Facts**

### **NEED**

- Today, a steady job no longer guarantees a full cupboard. **One out of five kids in this country** lives in a family struggling to put food on the table.
- More than 46 million Americans relies on SNAP to feed themselves and their families. **Nearly half of all SNAP participants are children.**

## PROPOSED SNAP CUTS

- SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as food stamps) is the first line of defense in the battle against childhood hunger.
- The bill currently under consideration in the House Ag Committee this week would cut the Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) by \$16.5 billion.
- According to analysis, the bill could cause **2 to 3 million low-income people -- low-income working families with children** and seniors -- to lose their benefits.
- The bill also would lead to **280,000 children in low-income families losing access to free school lunch and breakfast** (since their eligibility is tied to SNAP benefits).
- This program is a critical lifeline for families fighting to make ends meet, **helping them to put nutritious food on the table on a limited budget**.
- Funding cuts would place an undue burden on parents and their children. Proposed cuts will threaten the reach of this critical nutritional assistance program **even as the need for it increases**.

## **KIDS AND SNAP**

- More than 18 million children in this nation rely on SNAP benefits to get the food they need to grow and thrive.
- If Congress cuts funding for this poverty-relieving program, it could affect millions of children and families, leaving them at risk for long-term hunger, health and education problems.
- Kids who consistently get the healthy food they need feel better, learn more and grow up stronger.

#### NUTRITIONAL EDUCATION

- Programs like SNAP Nutrition Education also help to **educate millions of low-income families**, **teaching them how to maximize their SNAP benefits to purchase and prepare healthy foods**, and **teaching kids to make healthy choices**.
- SNAP Nutrition Education helps to fund Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters program, which taught more than 18,000 families nutrition and healthy cooking skills last year alone.

# In Their Own Words: An American Family's SNAP Story Meet Sam

Sam is a married father of two young children from Arkansas. He earned a "decent" living selling cars without a college degree. He wanted to be a better role model for his children and secure a better life for his family, so with the help of Federal Pell grants, he went back to school full-time to earn his bachelor's degree. To help support the family while Sam is in school, his wife went back to work but can only get part-time hours from the healthcare center where she is employed. The family has struggled financially since Sam went back to school, but he was too proud at first to apply for government assistance. He broke down one day when he realized there was not enough money in their checking account to buy diapers and milk for his son.

# Submit a Letter to the Editor

Here's a link to **send letters to the editors of your local newspapers**. (We've provided some sample language, but please feel free to customize it with your thoughts and ideas.) [Link]

## **Get Social! Tweet This!**

Stronger kids=stronger America. Join Farm Bill debate-tell Congress #SNAPWorks 2 make @NoKidHungry a reality: nokidhungry.org/farmbill

### Or Choose One Of These:

#### **Facebook**

- Urge Congress to protect our nation's most vulnerable kids. Find out how at nokidhungry.org/farmbill
- This infographic clearly explains the connection between the Farm Bill and childhood hunger -- cuts to SNAP (food stamps) = more hungry kids. Please share!

  <a href="http://strength.org/blog/clay\_dunn/infographic\_cuts">http://strength.org/blog/clay\_dunn/infographic\_cuts</a> to snap more hungry kids/</a>
- This @No Kid Hungry video clearly explains the connection between the Farm Bill and childhood hunger -- cuts to SNAP (food stamps) = more hungry kids. Please share! http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWW6oWpzy7E&

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- #Infographic: Cuts to #SNAP = more hungry kids. #SNAPworks #NoKidHungry. Pls
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- #Video: Cuts to #SNAP = more hungry kids. #SNAPworks #NoKidHungry. Pls RT. <a href="http://ow.ly/bSYVE">http://ow.ly/bSYVE</a>
- #FarmBill and childhood hunger. What's the connection? This #infographic has the answer. Pls RT. #NoKidHungry <a href="http://ow.ly/bFWuL">http://ow.ly/bFWuL</a>
- Urge Congress to #SNAPworks and make #NoKidHungry. Take action: nokidhungry.org/farmbill