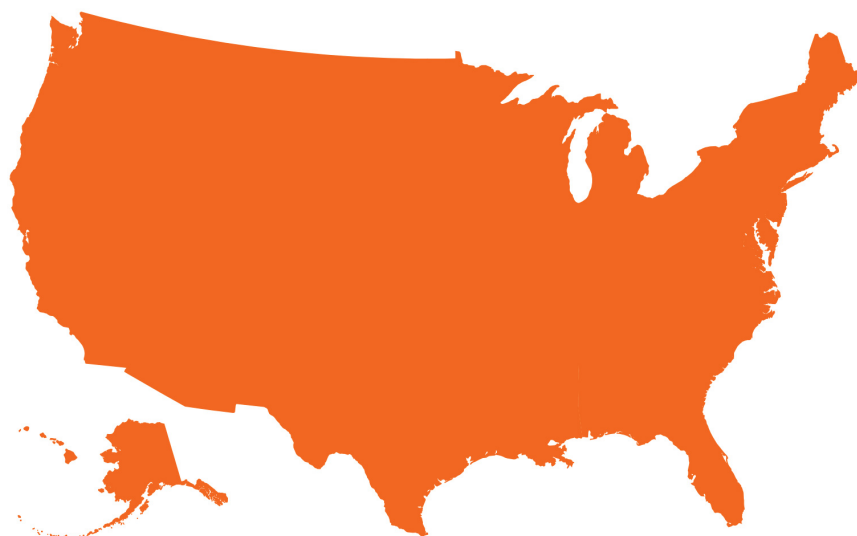


# United States



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as “food stamps”) is a powerful tool for ending hunger in the United States. SNAP benefits are provided on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card and can only be used to purchase food items from grocery stores, farmers’ markets and other food retailers. These benefits help low-income families put enough food on the table and reach the state’s most vulnerable residents, including children, seniors and people with disabilities. Here is a look at the impact this program has in the United States.

## SNAP IN THE UNITED STATES: BY THE NUMBERS



42 MILLION

PEOPLE



20 MILLION

KIDS



\$1.40

PER PERSON PER MEAL

### RESOURCES

- USDA, [Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2015](#).
- USDA, [2016 SNAP Retailer Management Year End Summary](#).
- U.S. Census Bureau, [American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2011-2015](#).
- USDA Economic Research Service, [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) Data System Documentation](#).

### CONTACT

**Policy Inquiries**  
Lucy Melcher  
[lmelcher@strength.org](mailto:lmelcher@strength.org)  
202.649.4354

**Press Inquiries**  
Christy Felling  
[cfelling@strength.org](mailto:cfelling@strength.org)  
202.320.4483

Learn More: <http://bit.ly/SNAP101>

# United States



## WHO IS ON SNAP?



64%

KIDS, ELDERLY,  
PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES

vs.



36%

OTHER  
ADULTS



20%

SMALL TOWN  
AND RURAL

vs.

80%

URBAN



## SNAP SUPPORTS WORKING FAMILIES



78%

SNAP HOUSEHOLDS THAT  
ARE EITHER WORKING  
OR HAVE WORKED  
WITHIN THE PAST YEAR



10 MONTHS

AVERAGE AMOUNT  
OF TIME FAMILIES  
SPEND ON SNAP



2 MILLION

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS  
SNAP KEPT OUT OF  
POVERTY IN 2015

## SNAP PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY

Households on SNAP spend their benefits quickly, which effectively boosts the local economy. Benefits can be used at local retailers and farmers markets, which in turn supports local business and agriculture.



259,764

AUTHORIZED  
RETAIL LOCATIONS  
IN THE UNITED STATES



\$67 BILLION

SNAP BENEFITS PUMPED  
INTO THE U.S.  
ECONOMY IN 2016

## NUTRITION EDUCATION

SNAP-Ed is the nutrition education and obesity prevention component of SNAP. SNAP-Ed funding supports programs that teach low-income Americans to make healthy food choices on a budget through cooking classes, grocery store tours and educational materials.

Nearly **40% of SNAP Ed participants** say these skills helped them reduce the number of days their families faced hunger during the month. And research shows that **almost half of all families** participating in nutrition education eat more fruits and increase their consumption of whole grains.

Although this funding helps families more effectively stretch their food budgets and create healthier eating habits, **less than 1% (0.6%)** of the SNAP budget goes to nutrition education. Learn More at <http://bit.ly/SNAPED>.