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.

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WHO IS ON SNAP?

64% KIDS, ELDERLY, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

36% OTHER ADULTS

20% SMALL TOWN AND RURAL

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.