

SNAP IS A VITAL ELEMENT IN ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY

What is SNAP? The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the leading federal program for reducing food insecurity.

How do students use SNAP? SNAP is a valuable resource for students, with more than **3.3 million students** being eligible for benefits in 2016 based on both general and student-specific requirements.

Does SNAP work? SNAP frees up students' limited funds for other essential needs and is associated with higher retention rates, improved financial stability, and a greater likelihood of degree completion.

STUDENTS WERE GREATLY BENEFITED BY PANDEMIC-RELATED IMPROVEMENTS TO SNAP

Expanded Eligibility

- for students who were eligible for work study and
- students with an Expected Family Contribution of "0"

Expanded Benefits

- students either received an extra \$95 per month or an amount that brought their total benefit up to the maximum level for their household size

Examples of Impact



3 MILLION

additional students were now eligible for SNAP



\$3,372 PER YEAR

in groceries for students enrolled as a single-person household



\$700 MILLION

per month was available for food assistance

BY MAY 2023 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL END THE TEMPORARY CHANGES TO SNAP

Reduced Eligibility

- students who temporarily qualified for SNAP will no longer be eligible unless they meet pre-pandemic SNAP requirements

Reduced Benefits

- benefits will return to what students would have received pre-pandemic
- a single-person household would go from **\$273 per month** → **\$23 per month** in SNAP benefits, on average
- the average household will **lose \$95 a month** for groceries

The White House describes SNAP rules for college students as "out of date given the current population who seek higher education credentials, many of whom are older, have low income, and hold caregiving responsibilities."

THE IMPACT OF THESE CHANGES TO SNAP ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY

1 There will be an increase in student need. As students lose eligibility and benefits, many will need other resources like food pantries.

2 Students who remain eligible still face challenges.

For example: lack of information, complex program requirements, stigma, and bureaucratic obstacles.



31% of students who meet SNAP income limits receive benefits
69% of potentially eligible students did NOT receive benefits

3 The cost of living continues to increase.

Although the annual cost of living adjustment for SNAP was raised in 2023, the minimum monthly benefit remained at \$23 for most 1-2 person homes.



In January 2023, groceries were **11.3%** higher than the previous year

SWIPE IS SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH ADVOCACY AND PROGRAMS

Advocacy

Protect + Modernize SNAP

- This includes removing work requirements for students, streamlining eligibility, expanding opportunities for benefit redemption, and expanding the National School Lunch Program.

Provide Emergency Aid to Students

- We are urging congress to pass the Emergency Grant Aid for College Students Act, which would establish permanent emergency aid for students and ensure robust funding for it.

Programs

Resources and Support

- We are providing resources for campuses to understand SNAP, this includes a SNAP toolkit which offers detailed information from outreach to enrollment assistance.