

## NYC OPPOSES CUTS TO SNAP AND CALLS ON CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN OR INCREASE SNAP FUNDING LEVELS.

### 1.8 MILLION NEW YORKERS RELY ON SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP).

The Farm Bill is the foremost federal legislation governing food access, rural economic resiliency, and food security across the United States.



In New York City, 560,000 children rely on SNAP.



Family of 4 receives a maximum of approximately \$32/day in SNAP benefits. Hardly enough to cover groceries in a high-cost city. USDA found that recipients redeem more than 75% of their monthly benefit in the first two weeks after receipt.



Older Adults (60+) represent 30% (530,000) of total SNAP recipients in NYC.

## SNAP HELPS COMBAT FOOD INSECURITY

### SNAP BOOSTS FOOD PURCHASING POWER WHICH ALLOWS LOW-INCOME FAMILIES TO FOCUS ON HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE



A systematic review found that students living in food-secure households were nearly 60% less likely to be absent from school when compared to their food-insecure peers.



Almost 1 in 5 New York City renters experience food insecurity. Among this group, those in public housing (26%) and affordable rental units (41%) experience the highest rates.



More than half of New Yorkers facing food hardship also reported facing health problems.

### SNAP IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIES.

In 2023  
NYC Department  
of Social Services  
issued approximately  
**\$5 billion**  
in SNAP benefits.



Local supermarkets and bodegas rely on clients using SNAP funds at their stores, especially in low-income neighborhoods.



USDA estimates the GDP multiplier for SNAP to be 1.79, meaning that \$1 billion in SNAP dollars spent induces further spending in the economy that collectively increases GDP by \$1.79 billion, which supports 13,560 jobs and creates \$32 million in farm income.



More than \$3M of SNAP benefits are redeemed at Farmers Markets.

# THE FARM BILL SHOULD ALSO:

## 1 PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY



Strengthen SNAP benefits by matching [SNAP benefit levels](#) with the true cost of food by using, at a minimum, the Thrifty Food Plan and [prevent additional work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents](#).

- Protect the Thrifty Food Plan from cuts in the 2024 Farm Bill.
  - The last Farm Bill created a necessary pathway to update the Thrifty Food Plan every 5 years. In addition to the annual COLA, every 5 years, USDA evaluates the food plan used to set SNAP benefits to align with current nutritional guidelines and buying patterns. In 2021 this adjustment increased SNAP benefits by \$1.19 per person per day.
  - The Republican version of the Farm Bill eliminates the every 5-year realignment. This means that there is no opportunity to adjust benefits for changes in health care guidance or market conditions.
- Without these adjustments, recipients will receive \$30 billion less in SNAP benefits over 10 years.
- New York City strongly believes that one's food security should not be used as a weapon to secure a person's compliance with program work rules.
  - [Studies have shown](#) that ABAWD time limits do not lead to people finding employment, and disincentivize clients from entering the workforce when faced with food insecurity.
  - Low-income New Yorkers are more than twice as likely to have a work limiting health condition.

## 2 EQUIP ELECTRONIC BENEFIT CARDS WITH CURRENT TECHNOLOGY



Urge the USDA to adopt Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards with smart chip technology as the national standard. Chip technology makes it difficult for criminals to fraudulently skim benefits from those experiencing food insecurity.

- NYC supports enabling contactless transactions.

This initiative would result in a cost savings for the federal government which is currently reimbursing clients victimized by skimming.

As of May 15, 2024: DSS has received roughly 81,000

distinct skimming claims and approved \$25.9 million in replacement benefits:

- \$23.3M in SNAP replacement
- \$2.6M in Cash Assistance replacement

## 3 ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

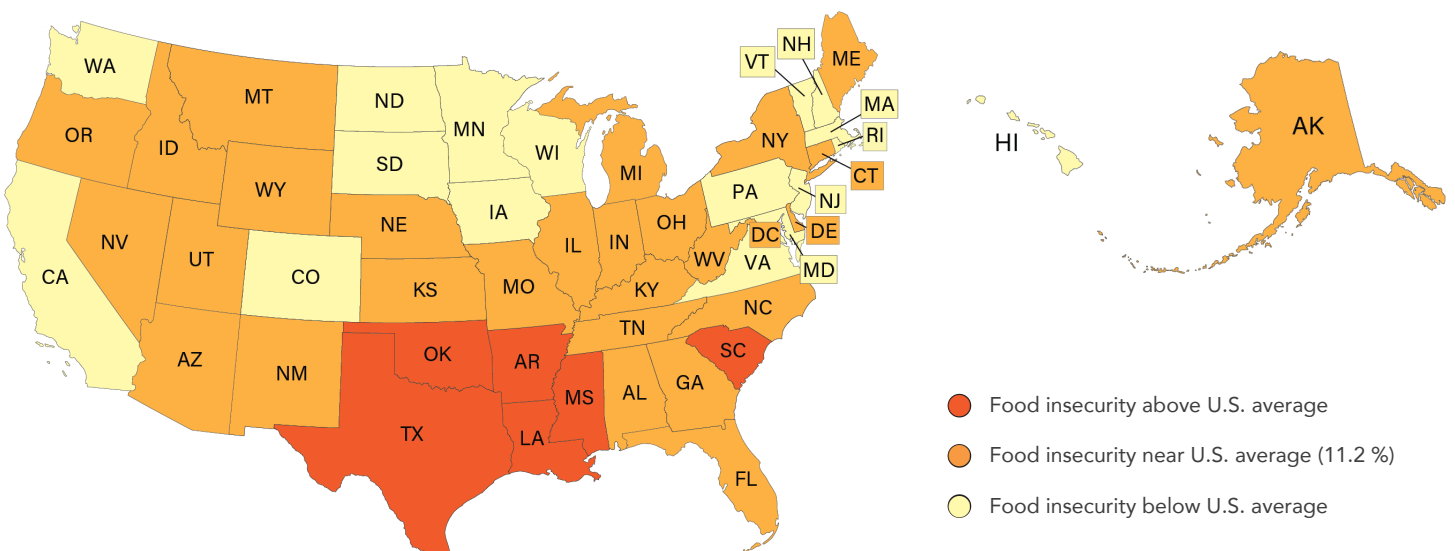


Repeal the SNAP [student](#) eligibility rules in their entirety. Current student work requirements threaten a student's ability to focus solely on their education, particularly if students are experiencing food insecurity or lack resources to obtain nutritional food.

The rules concerning student eligibility for SNAP, under which a student must meet special work rules, were temporarily suspended during COVID. Due to the lifting of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency these waivers ended on June 30, 2023.

- According to a 2015 survey, nearly 1 in 4 CUNY students experienced food insecurity.
- In 2017, it was reported that over half of all CUNY students lived in households making less than \$20,000 annually.

## PREVALENCE OF FOOD INSECURITY, AVERAGE 2020-2022



Note: States that are categorized as near U.S. average have prevalence rates not statistically significantly different from the U.S. average.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2020, 2021, and 2022 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.