





*The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's first line of defense against hunger. SNAP currently helps put food on the table for more than **41 million** low-income participants. It responds to changes in need, whether due to economic downturns or natural disasters.*

SNAP Strengths

<p>SNAP DELIVERS ASSISTANCE quickly and effectively to people recovering from natural disasters or economic crises.</p> 	<p>SNAP REACHES KEY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS — the large majority are children, seniors, and people with disabilities.</p>	<p>SNAP REDUCES HUNGER and food insecurity by providing low-income people necessary food money.</p> 	<p>SNAP IMPROVES DIETARY INTAKE and health, especially among children and with lasting effects.</p>
<p>SNAP IS EFFICIENT, using electronic benefits technology and regular channels of commerce.</p> 	<p>SNAP SUPPORTS WORK, helping families struggling with low wages.</p>	<p>SNAP BOLSTERS LOCAL ECONOMIES by increasing money spent for food at local retailers.</p> 	<p>SNAP LIFTS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE out of poverty.</p>

If SNAP were weakened, many millions of older Americans, people with disabilities, children, veterans, struggling parents — working and unemployed — and others will be harmed, and the nation will see more hunger and food insecurity, worse health and educational outcomes, and higher health costs.

Despite SNAP's many strengths, benefits are too low. SNAP benefits average less than \$1.39 per person per meal, and recipients struggle to afford an adequate and nutritious diet on a consistent basis.

SNAP Action Needed

1. Congress should protect and strengthen SNAP — no cuts, block grants, or structural changes.

2. Congress should strengthen SNAP by passing H.R. 1276 — the “Closing the Meal Gap Act” of 2017 to:

- Base SNAP benefit allotments on the more adequate Low-Cost Food Plan;
- Boost SNAP benefits for families with children forced to choose between food and shelter;
- Boost SNAP benefits for older Americans forced to choose between food and medicine;
- Boost the SNAP minimum monthly benefit to \$25 per month; and
- Ensure that jobless adults are offered employment and training opportunities before time limiting their SNAP benefits.