

**August 5, 2019**

## Oppose Trump Administration's Latest Attack on Struggling Americans

Let the Administration know that the [proposed rule to limit SNAP](#) would increase hunger and poverty in this country, especially for working families with children whose net incomes are below the poverty line, and families and seniors with even a small amount of savings who would be kicked off of SNAP. *Click on the graphic to download and share!*

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## Proposed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Regulation

[Trump administration wants to take food stamps from 3 million more people](#) (New Food Economy, July 23, 2019)

The Trump administration's proposal to restrict broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP benefits would mean 3 million people on the program would stop receiving food assistance. "This is the option that allows the state to look at the income circumstances of people who are starting to earn more money and see whether or not the expenses they have for other basics like childcare and high housing costs are leaving them with too little money in their budgets left over for food," said Ellen Vollinger, SNAP director at FRAC. Vollinger also noted that the changes could mean that 265,000 students could lose their eligibility for free school lunch.

[Public comments needed on SNAP change](#) (Gazette-Mail, July 30, 2019)

The Trump administration's proposed SNAP rule ignores "the clear will of bipartisan majorities in the U.S. Senate and House that voted in the Farm Bill to leave the program intact," writes Rick Wilson in this op-ed. Wilson opposes the bill and offers public comment messages in the piece. He also notes that "[o]ne easy way to put your two cents in is to visit the Food Research & Action Center's website" to [submit comments](#).

[Wolf Administration Says SNAP Restriction Could Impact 200,000 Pennsylvanians](#) (WPSU, July 28, 2019)

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, in a statement, said that the Trump administration's proposal to restrict SNAP benefits is a "ludicrous plan that will hurt tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians, creating an undue burden and more food insecurity for families." According to the governor's office and the state Department of Human Services, about 200,000 in the state, in more than 120,000 households, could lose benefits if the proposed regulation is put into effect. The governor's office also noted it would disproportionately affect the elderly, disabled persons, and working families. The proposal is "[a]bsolutely unnecessary, absolutely unconscionable, [and] absolutely immoral," said Vince Hughes, a Democratic state senator from Philadelphia.

[90,000 in Mass. could be affected by Trump's callous food-stamp cuts](#) (Boston Globe, July 25, 2019)

"We shouldn't penalize people for having some savings if they get SNAP," said Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, executive director of Children's HealthWatch. "We want people to have something to fall back on, and this allows people to do it." The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposed regulation to limit SNAP benefits would affect 90,000 in Massachusetts, the state estimates. SNAP has a positive effect on the state's economy, since every SNAP dollar generates an estimated \$1.79 in economic activity.

[Las Vegas agencies worry about effects of rolling back food stamp program](#) (Las Vegas Sun, August 1, 2019)

The proposed regulation limiting SNAP benefits will increase the number of students currently not getting enough food, according to Tami Hance-Lehr, CEO of Communities in Schools of Nevada. "This is going to be a challenge for us moving forward, because if some people are not able to qualify for this program, (kids are)

going to be coming to school hungry,” she said. Nearly 65 percent of Clark County School District students qualified for free or reduced-price school lunch in the 2017–2018 school year, and 271,000 Nevada residents were struggling with food insecurity. Mike Phillips, government affairs and compliance director for Three Square food bank, said the proposal could be stressful for the organization. “We cannot do it all by what we can collect as resources as a food bank,” he said. “We definitely rely on the backbone of federal food program.”

[Administration sets sights on food stamps](#) (Gazette Times, July 29, 2019)

About 60,000 Oregon residents could lose their SNAP benefits if the Trump administration’s SNAP proposal were to be approved, notes this editorial. Nearly half (44 percent) of SNAP recipients are children, and the program has a long-term effect: one study found that people who had access to SNAP as children were less likely to develop chronic diseases as adults, and earned higher incomes. The program also has economic benefits.

[Brazos Valley Food Bank expects more clients if food stamp restrictions are approved](#) (KBTX, July 24, 2019)

About 125,000 Texas families would find their SNAP benefits in jeopardy if a proposed rule by the Trump administration to tighten automatic eligibility requirements for the program were to go into effect. “Really, that’s going to affect what’s known as the working poor, or households that have incomes between 130–165 percent of the federal poverty line,” said Shannon Avila of the Brazos Valley Food Bank. Avila said she expects to see more people requesting food from the food bank if the proposal is approved. “There’s not another avenue for food,” she said.

[Thousands of Kentuckians could lose food stamps under Trump plan to tighten SNAP rules](#) (Courier-Journal, July 31, 2019)

USDA’s proposal to limit categorical eligibility for SNAP would increase the workload and wait-time for Kentuckians applying for SNAP, according to Jason Dunn, policy analyst with Kentucky Voices for Health. The rule’s increased administrative costs “would not only harm folks who are looking for food assistance but also folks who are going to (Cabinet of Health and Family Services) for any reason,” said Dustin Pugel, policy analyst with the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy.

[Proposed food stamp cut could hit families in GT region](#) (Record-Eagle, July 28, 2019)

Carol Hockin, coordinator at the Acme Christian Thrift Store and Food Pantry in Michigan, said the pantry serves an average of 790 people a month, a number expected to rise if the proposed USDA regulation to limit SNAP benefits is approved. Affecting categorical eligibility, the proposed rule, if adopted, is “going to threaten the health and security of people throughout Michigan who rely on food stamps to help them put food on the table for themselves and their family,” said Bob Wheaton of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

[Here’s how many New Jerseyans would lose food stamps under Trump proposal](#) (NJ.com, July 31, 2019)

USDA’s proposed change to SNAP eligibility would mean that more than 1 in 11 New Jersey residents receiving SNAP would lose benefits — about 68,000 people in the state. “It’s never acceptable to make it harder for New Jerseyans in need to feed their families or to make it more difficult for states to provide needed food assistance,” said Carole Johnson, the state’s Human Services Commissioner. “That’s why we will continue to take appropriate action to fight this proposal.”

[Hundreds of Marin residents could lose food stamps under rule change](#) (Marin Independent Journal, July 29, 2019)

Health officials in Marin, California estimate that if the proposed SNAP regulation is enacted, more than 1,000 Marin residents would lose their benefits. “It would narrow the scope of who is eligible for food support,” said Kari Beuerman, assistant director of the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, the regulation would increase the program’s administrative costs, said Beuerman. “It would reinstate the need to do a means test on 100 percent of our clientele. That is a big workload for staff. It is very time consuming, and it’s expensive to administer.”

[500,000 kids could lose free school lunch under Trump administration proposal](#) (USA Today, July 29, 2019)

The Trump administration’s proposal to limit SNAP benefits would also cut school meals for about half a million children. “The effect on school meal eligibility represents an important technical finding that must be made public so stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on all aspects of the rule’s impact,” said Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA), in a letter. According to FRAC, schools must directly certify children from SNAP households for free school breakfast and lunch, and SNAP participation is used to determine a school’s eligibility for the Community Eligibility Provision, which enables schools in high-poverty areas to provide free school meals to all students. Rep. Scott said that the proposed SNAP rule’s impact on school meals was

not included in the Federal Register when the proposed rule appeared. This violates an executive order requiring USDA to provide “relevant and technical findings,” he said.



### School Meal Debt

#### **Can schools spare kids ‘lunch shaming’ while still paying the bills?**(PBS NewsHour, July 30, 2019)

In this NewsHour segment, FRAC’s Crystal FitzSimons discusses school meal debt, lunch shaming, free and reduced-price school meals, and the No Shame at School Act, with NewsHour anchor John Yang.

[Watch the segment](#)

#### New Law Expands Free School Breakfast Across N.H. (NH Public Radio, July 30, 2019)

New Hampshire Gov. John Sununu signed a bill into law that requires schools to offer free breakfast to students from families that were qualified to receive reduced-price breakfast. It’s estimated that 7,500 students will benefit from the change next year. No longer charging low-income families for school breakfast could help school districts with the growing problem of school meal debt, said Elaine VanDyke of New Hampshire Hunger Solutions.

#### Madison schools work directly with families to pay off school lunch debt (WKOW, July 29, 2019)

Wisconsin’s Madison Metropolitan School District has about \$90,000 in school lunch debt, and works directly with families on the issue, instead of punishing students. According to Steve Youngbauer, a large amount of the debt is due to families who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, but haven’t filled out an application or missed the deadline. “[W]e’ll do everything we can do [to] get them eligible for the benefits so we can get that reimbursement through the federal program,” said Youngbauer. In the meantime, every student gets the same meal, regardless of their account balance.

### Homelessness

#### As homelessness crisis grows, the Trump administration has made few new efforts (LA Times, July 26, 2019)

The Trump administration’s budget proposals repeatedly (although unsuccessfully) have tried to cut money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that could cause homelessness in the U.S. to worsen if put into effect. The administration proposed cutting public housing funds by \$1.8 billion in 2018, and proposed large rent increases for the lowest-income households in public housing. In 2019, the budget proposal would have eliminated Housing Choice Vouchers for about 200,000 low-income households, and rent increases for low-income families receiving HUD rental assistance. While Congress has not accepted any of these cuts, the administration’s 2020 budget proposal contains similar cuts.



### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Initiatives to Make SNAP Benefits More Adequate Significantly Improve Food Security, Nutrition, and Health

FRAC’s paper analyzes why SNAP benefits are inadequate, reviews the body of research showing positive effects from more adequate SNAP benefits, and concludes with some of the key policy solutions that can improve benefit adequacy.

[Read more](#)

### From FRAC Chat

#### Protect and Strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) this August (FRAC Chat, July 30, 2019)

SNAP is the nation’s first line of defense against hunger, but instead of making it stronger, the Trump

administration wants to eliminate benefits for many seniors and working families with children — and take away free school meals from those children. Not only will this lead to greater food insecurity, diminish health and well-being, and undercut SNAP's stimulative impact for local communities, it ignores the glaring deficiency with SNAP that should be the focus of policymakers: the inadequacy of SNAP benefit amounts. The average SNAP benefit is about \$4 per person a day. On its face, that figure is enough for most people to conclude the SNAP benefit is too low.

[FRAC On the Move: 2019 Intergenerational Conference](#) (FRAC Chat, July 31, 2019)

Susan Beaudoin, FRAC's special projects and initiatives associate, writes about presenting on grandfamily hunger and the federal nutrition programs at the 2019 Intergenerational Conference in Portland, Oregon. The conference, hosted this year by Generations United and Bridge Meadows, brought together leaders, educators, and advocates to learn, network, and share innovative practices and programs in the intergenerational field.

[5 Ways to Expand Children's Access to Summer Meals](#) (FRAC Chat, August 5, 2019)

FRAC's recently released *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report* finds that the Summer Nutrition Programs served lunch to nearly 2.9 million children on an average weekday in July 2018, meaning only 14.1 low-income children received a summer lunch for every 100 who received a school lunch during the 2017–2018 school year. In the upcoming Child Nutrition Reauthorization, Congress has the opportunity to expand — substantially — children's access to summer meals. Here are five strategies Congress can employ to strengthen and improve children's access to the Summer Nutrition Programs:

**About Us**

FRAC is the leading national nonprofit organization working to eradicate poverty-related hunger and undernutrition in the United States. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

**Contact Us**

Food Research & Action Center  
1200 18th Street, NW Suite 400  
Washington, District of Columbia 20036  
(202) 986-2200  
[mambrose@frac.org](mailto:mambrose@frac.org)

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