



2026 FARM BILL PRIORITIES

Protect Access to SNAP:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is our nation's most effective nutrition program and powerful tool to end hunger, helping 42 million Americans—mainly children, seniors and adults with disabilities—afford nutritious food. Current benefit levels are modest, but they provide critical support for families, with nearly 90% of SNAP benefits going to households with incomes at or below the poverty line, and 54% to those at or below *half* of the poverty line. Reductions to these benefits devastate families, pushing them further into poverty and food insecurity.

- **No Benefit Cuts.** SNAP funding was cut by \$187 Billion dollars in the 2025 Budget Reconciliation Process. With an average benefit of only about \$6 per person per day, SNAP cannot even cover the cost of one full meal per day in 99% of counties in the U.S. Further cuts to this already minimal support would deny children and families the food they need to live. It is essential to protect benefit levels with no rollbacks and no future cuts.
- **Limit and Reverse State Cost Shifts.** Shifting a portion of SNAP benefit costs to states forces states to cut benefits, eligibility, or both. State budgets are unable to absorb the added program costs, especially as many states are already facing budget shortfalls. A state match would be even more problematic during economic downturns as more people would qualify and, to meet the increase demand, state leaders would need to find even more state funding or further cut benefit levels and eligibility, undermining the long-proven stimulus effect of SNAP for the economy.
- **Enhance SNAP Security.** SNAP identity theft and card skimming resulted in the theft of more than \$325 million in SNAP benefits since 2023. To address this fraud and protect access to critical nutrition benefits for kids and families, Congress should support efforts to transition to EBT cards that utilize enhanced security measures such as chip and tap technology.
- **Improve Program Efficiency.** Updated technology helps states integrate eligibility systems across programs to meet Quality Control benchmarks. Congress should also allow states to utilize flexibilities like Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility, which can reduce the benefits cliff and serves as a meaningful pathway to self-sufficiency. Waivers and these policy choices allow states to more efficiently administer the program through alignment of timelines and data sharing between safety-net programs.

Protect School Meals

School meals are crucial for the well-being and success of the nearly 30 million students who eat nutritious school meals each day. These meals not only address food insecurity but also contribute to improved academic performance, better test scores, and enhanced attendance. When students are well-fed, they can better focus in class, leading to stronger educational outcomes and healthier, more engaged learners.

- **No Cuts to School Meals.** Congress must protect school meals funding and support policies that help provide nutritious meals for kids, like the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). CEP allows schools in high-poverty areas to eliminate unnecessary and burdensome paperwork, ensuring that children in need have access to nutritious food at school.