



FARM BILL PRIORITIES

Any Farm Bill or farm relief package must also include relief for families struggling with affordability. This means protecting and strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SNAP is our nation's most effective nutrition program and most powerful tool to end hunger. SNAP helps roughly 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. Investing in SNAP also supports the farm economy and rural communities, key goals for a Farm Bill.

Despite SNAP's proven track record, Congress enacted devastating cuts and made damaging structural changes to the program as part of the 2025 budget reconciliation bill H.R.1. Many of the changes that limit access to SNAP are taking effect now, like expanded work reporting requirements with harsh time limits. And while states will not take on a share of benefit costs for a few more years, they must begin planning now for the risk of a benefit cost shift due to state budget cycles. Moreover, their future liability will be based on state actions before the law was even passed and during the challenging period of implementation.

To address these harms, the next Farm Bill or farm relief package must:

Delay or Reverse State Cost Shifts

Even before H.R.1 passed, states have been working hard to improve their SNAP payment error rates, the basis for the benefit cost shift. Still, lowering error rates while preserving timely access to SNAP takes time and resources, and H.R. 1 also requires states to take on more administrative costs. 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 increased demand, state leaders would need to find even more state funding or limit access, undermining the long-proven stimulus effect of SNAP for the economy.

At a minimum, all states should be given the same opportunity for more time that H.R.1 granted to states with the highest error rates, especially since error rates for FY 2026 will be impacted by H.R.1 implementation and the 2025 government shutdown.



Restore Eligibility and Reject Further Cuts to Benefits

H.R.1 made the largest cut to SNAP in the program's history: nearly \$200 billion over ten years. Millions of households, including households with kids, are projected to lose some or all benefits, in large part because of the expansion of harsh work reporting requirements with time limits that do nothing to improve access to sustainable long-term employment. 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. It is essential to restore eligibility and reject any further cuts to eligibility or expansion of burdensome red tape, especially as families continue to struggle with high food prices.

Preserve the Intent of SNAP

Part of SNAP's power is how it works with our current food distribution and retail system and preserves participants' autonomy in selecting the foods that meet their families' unique nutritional needs. Changing the intent would pave the way for further structural changes that would undermine SNAP's strengths.

Enhance SNAP Security

By far the most significant form of fraud in SNAP today is benefit theft, often via card skimming. The federal government replaced more than \$360 million in stolen benefits in the two years funding was available. 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 continue to allow states to utilize flexibilities like Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility, which can reduce the benefits cliff and provide a meaningful pathway to self-sufficiency. These policy choices allow states to more efficiently administer the program through alignment of timelines and data sharing between safety-net programs and may reduce payment error rates.

Uphold Program Integrity

Well-trained staff are critical in the effective administration of SNAP. While timely application processing is important to ensuring families have access to help with affording groceries when they need it, outsourcing key tasks like eligibility determinations can undermine program integrity or worsen payment error rates.