

What it is:

- SNAP (formerly called Food Stamps) helps alleviate hunger by providing funds to purchase food for households with incomes at or below 130% of the federal poverty level (an income of \$33,566 per year for a family of three)
- SNAP primarily serves working families, seniors, veterans, and children. Of Idaho households enrolled in SNAP 51% have children, 34% have an elderly adult, and 56% have a person with a disability. *
- SNAP cannot be used to purchase alcohol, tobacco, non-food items, or hot prepared foods.
- It is the largest anti-hunger program in America. Currently 135,000 Idahoans use SNAP. **

Why it is important:

- SNAP has been shown to reduce childhood food insecurity and the negative impact on academic and cognitive development as children grow older. Also, it allows families to transition to self-sufficiency and financial stability.
- SNAP not only allows families to purchase much-needed healthy food, but it also makes a positive impact on the local economy. Every dollar in SNAP benefits spent generates an additional \$1.50 in local economic activity, helping create revenue for local food retailers and food producers.
- SNAP is an important part of the safety net that pairs with the charitable food provided by food banks. For every 1 meal provided by the nationwide network of food banks, SNAP provides 9 meals. ***

How will changes impact Idaho?

Costs to the State: Congress is considering a proposal that would shift a significant portion of the cost of SNAP food benefits from the federal government to the states. It would cost the State of Idaho at least \$14 million annually to cover 5% of SNAP benefit costs in Idaho. Most states cannot absorb the cost increase and would be forced to cut benefits, restrict participation, or both, which increases food insecurity in our communities.

Food Security: Adding additional red tape for people to participate in SNAP can cause people in need of food assistance to lose access to this vital program.

Increased Pressure on Charitable Food Organizations: The Idaho Foodbank serves more than 211,000 people each month. If there is a significant increase in the number of people needing assistance, The Idaho Foodbank and the hunger relief network has limited resources to try to increase the food we distribute.

What can you do?

Organizations and individuals can take action by:

- ☐ Contacting your U.S. Senators and other elected officials to share how SNAP helps your community.
- ☐ Sharing information about SNAP and the positive impact of the program. Visit idahofoodbank.org/Advocacy

*Source FNS SNAP Data Dashboard 2023 Data <https://www.fns.usda.gov/data-research/data-visualization/snap-community-characteristics-congressional-district-dashboard>

**Idaho Department of Health & Welfare <https://publicdocuments.dhw.idaho.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=8491&dbid=o&repo=PUBLIC-DOCUMENTS>

***Feeding America