

## Protecting SNAP: Talking Points

*It is important to communicate how cuts to SNAP would specifically impact your state. [Click here to read the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities fact sheet about SNAP in your state!](#)*

**NETWORK urges all lawmakers to resist any new cuts to SNAP, so-called “restructuring,” or additional work-reporting requirements that are just pretenses for slashing the benefits that our communities need and deserve.**

**The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is our nation’s most important tool for preventing hunger for families and children.**

- No matter what we look like, where we live, or how much money is in our wallets, we all deserve to eat nutritious food.
- **42 million people in the United States rely on SNAP to eat.**
  - In our state, \_\_\_\_\_ of our neighbors rely on SNAP to prevent hunger for themselves and their families.
- But even with the SNAP program we have today, **47 million** people in the U.S. still face food insecurity, including **9.4 million children**.
- **These numbers are inexcusable and immoral.**
  - Grounded in Gospel teaching, we believe that all people have the right to the basic essentials we need to live—and food is the most basic of all.
  - Hunger is a moral issue for all of us. People of faith and all people of goodwill agree that **no child or family should go hungry, especially in the richest nation in the world.**

**And, SNAP does more than put food on the table.**

- **SNAP helps the economy.** Studies demonstrate that every \$1 in SNAP benefits creates more than \$1.50 in economic activity.
- **SNAP is a lifeline for our rural communities.**
  - Rural areas have the highest proportions of SNAP participants.
  - Farmers and food workers need the economic stability that SNAP provides, especially in hard times.
- **SNAP improves our nation’s health, education, and economic self-sufficiency.**
  - SNAP participants have fewer hospitalizations, lower health care costs, and a reduced need for other forms of public assistance.
  - Children with SNAP benefits are at lower risk for developmental problems, child abuse, and neglect, and have better educational achievement outcomes.

## Yet, some Republicans in Congress are dangerously threatening SNAP.

- **These lawmakers want to cut the Thrifty Food Plan**, which is the bipartisan, basic formula for setting benefits. This would harm all 47 million people who need SNAP.
- **They want to take away states' flexibility** in awarding benefits, and “restructure” SNAP to force states to pay for the program instead of the federal government.
- **They want to create even more red tape with more work-reporting requirements**, even though those requirements were just increased last year. More work-reporting requirements will punish people like:
  - A grandmother who cares for her grandkids so their mom can work full-time;
  - Individuals with severe health problems struggling with endless delays in their disability applications; and
  - Gig workers with unstable employment opportunities.

## These cuts make no sense because:

- **SNAP is already limited to our neighbors with the greatest need.**
  - 92% of SNAP benefits go to households at or below the poverty line.
- **SNAP benefits only cover a subsistence diet.**
  - Even though food inflation has skyrocketed and still rises, the average SNAP benefit is just \$6.20/day per person.
- **SNAP already has strict eligibility rules, including work-reporting requirements.**

## Any cuts to SNAP will be devastating for our communities and for individuals, families, and children living in or at the edge of poverty.

- Our local soup kitchens and food banks are already overwhelmed and cannot handle further cuts to SNAP.
- Cutting SNAP will result in higher government costs for health care, education, and social services.
- **Cutting SNAP will increase poverty and instability in our country and make food less accessible to our families and communities. This is immoral.**

## Tell your Members of Congress:

**SNAP keeps food on the table and strengthens our economy.  
Don't be the vote that takes food from our families.**

**Food for families or tax handouts for billionaires—whose side are you on?**