

POLICY BRIEF

Thrifty Food Plan Modernization is a Lifeline to Iowans Who Participate in SNAP



In the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress directed the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to modernize and reformulate the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). The Thrifty Food Plan is the lowest-cost of four food plans developed by USDA FNS, and is used to calculate benefit amounts for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In October 2021, the modernized Thrifty Food Plan was implemented, leading to the first permanent increase to SNAP purchasing power in nearly 50 years.

Iowans need a Thrifty Food Plan that continues to stay up to date with the times.

- From October 2021 to March 2024, the TFP modernization led to over \$306 million in additional SNAP benefits for Iowans struggling with hunger and food insecurity.
- Without the TFP modernization, Iowa households would be receiving \$67 less in SNAP benefits on average every month, and individuals would receive \$1.11 less every day.
- Based on Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates, freezing TFP updates (outside of inflation adjustments) would cut \$170 million in SNAP benefits to Iowans over fiscal years 2027-2033, and would also deal cuts to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).
- Iowans need a Thrifty Food Plan that continues to stay up to date with the times—not preventing future benefit increases and leaving people struggling to put food on the table.

Tell your member of Congress:

Keep SNAP benefits up to date—don't restrict Thrifty Food Plan updates!

Quantifying the Impact of the Thrifty Food Plan Modernization on SNAP Benefits for Iowans

Congressional District	SNAP Participants (March 2024)	Average Monthly Benefit Increase (Households)	Average Daily Benefit Increase (Individuals)	Total Increase in Benefits*	Economic Multiplier from Total Increase*
1 st District	69,022	\$68.59	\$1.14	\$81,264,842	\$125,147,857
2 nd District	63,297	\$65.65	\$1.10	\$72,901,182	\$112,267,821
3 rd District	72,650	\$68.31	\$1.11	\$84,418,781	\$130,004,922
4 th District	59,341	\$68.53	\$1.14	\$67,893,574	\$104,556,104
State of Iowa**	264,330	\$67.48	\$1.11	\$306,495,704	\$472,003,384

*Calculated totals are provided for the date ranges of October 2021-March 2024.

**Statewide totals include a small number of participants and benefit amounts not attributed to any Congressional District.