

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Basics

State of Iowa, December 2021

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in Iowa as the Food Assistance Program, is the nation's most important and effective tool at addressing hunger and food insecurity. In December 2021, SNAP provided \$69 million in benefits to 288,000 Iowans.¹ **The number of Iowans currently enrolled in SNAP is at a 13-year low.**

SNAP is administered by the Department of Human Services in the state of Iowa, and the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) at the federal level. All SNAP benefits are fully funded by the federal government, while state agencies and USDA FNS have a 50-50 cost share for program administration.

Program Eligibility

The gross income limit for SNAP eligibility in Iowa is 160% FPL: \$21,744 for a single individual or \$44,400 for a family of four.

SNAP Supports Iowa's Most Vulnerable

Of all SNAP participants in Iowa in FY 2019²:

- 43% were children (0-17)
- 11% were disabled adults (18-64)
- 9% were seniors (65+)

SNAP Supports Iowa's Economy

According to the USDA Economic Research Service³, every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.54 in economic activity. SNAP is a win for local economies, especially in rural areas of the state. Over 2,800 retailers across Iowa accept SNAP benefits.

The Stats on SNAP

Iowa, December 2021

\$2.66

average benefit per meal

288,213

individuals assisted

142,155

households assisted

\$106 million

total economic impact

view the most current county-level SNAP data at:

iowahungercoalition.org/snap-map

¹ Iowa Department of Human Services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Report Series F-1 Report for December 2021. <http://publications.iowa.gov/39832/1/SNAP-F1-2016%20-%202021-12.pdf>.

² USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Characteristics of SNAP Households: FY 2019. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/characteristics-snap-households-fy-2019>.

³ USDA Economic Research Service, Quantifying the Impact of SNAP Benefits on the U.S. Economy and Jobs. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/2019/july/quantifying-the-impact-of-snap-benefits-on-the-us-economy-and-jobs/>.