What SNAP cuts could mean for nutrition, food banks
New challenges to safety net for vulnerable families in food assistance proposals

**Iowa food insecurity basics**

- Food insecurity means lacking consistent access to affordable, nutritious foods.
- In Iowa, 10.7 percent of households were considered food insecure on average from 2014-16.¹
- In 2016, an average of 380,705 Iowans participated in SNAP each month, with an average monthly benefit of $111.11 per person.²
- Iowa SNAP recipients received $1.15 per meal in December 2017.³
- SNAP pumps more than $38 million into the state economy each month.⁴ Like many programs that support low-income families, benefits are turned over — often quickly — in the local economy. SNAP cuts would hurt local businesses.

1 in 9 Iowans are food insecure

*Food Security in Iowa 2014-16*

- 89% food secure
- 6% low
- 5% very low

*Source: USDA, “Household Food Security in the United States, 2016”*

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**Far reaching impacts of SNAP and addressing food security: Effects are not just economic**

Food insecurity is correlated with obesity and chronic disease with adults⁵ and poses serious threats to child development and school performance.⁶

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**Did you know?**

Forty-one percent of Iowa’s K-12 students qualify for free or reduced lunch. *(Iowa Dept of Educ.)*

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**FACT SHEET**

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**www.iowafiscal.org**
**President’s 2019 budget proposal would drastically change nutrition assistance**

**Trump’s 2019 budget proposal**

- $213 billion in cuts to SNAP over the next decade
- Eliminates minimum benefit
- Expands three-month benefit time limit for jobless adults without disability or dependents to ages 18-62 (now 18-49)
- Caps benefits at the six-person household level
- Eliminates all SNAP-Ed funding
- Proposes diverting 40 percent of benefits issued to SNAP recipients to fund non-perishable food boxes

![As Economy Rebounds, SNAP Participation Lessens in Iowa](image)

**The emergency food system picks up the pieces**

Iowa food banks, pantries, and hot meal sites pony up when SNAP benefits are cut, but it is unrealistic to assume they would be able to pick up the significantly increased demand for assistance that would come with the proposed cuts. A report conducted by the Johnson County Hunger Task Force in 2016 found that only half of 473 food pantry clients surveyed participated in SNAP. This points to “cliff effects” in SNAP: As income rises families lose SNAP eligibility — but the challenge of putting food on the table remains, and food insecurity persists.


