



# Policy explainer SNAP at a glance: Key changes from HR 1

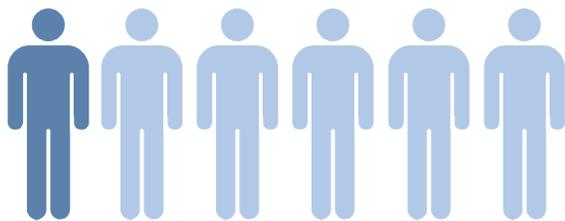
February 2026

Access to healthy food is a major contributor to overall health. However, factors such as discrimination and poverty can make it harder to obtain nutritious foods by restraining employment opportunities and neighborhood resources.<sup>1</sup> These factors leave many communities without access to affordable, healthy food options.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) combats food insecurity by providing individuals and families with financial support to purchase food. In Ohio, families use SNAP benefits to buy food at more than 9,964 authorized retailers, and those purchases also support the broader economy, with the USDA estimating that every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates up to \$1.50 in economic activity.<sup>2</sup>

The federal reconciliation bill known as **HR 1** or the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” which was enacted in July 2025, made substantial changes to SNAP that will affect Ohio and other states, as well as people enrolled in the program.

More than 1.8 million Ohioans (almost 1 in 6) experienced food insecurity in 2023



Source: Feeding America

### Key takeaways

1. SNAP enables over 1.4 million Ohioans to meet their basic food needs and supports local economies by generating up to \$1.50 in economic activity for every \$1 in benefits spent.
2. HR 1's SNAP eligibility restrictions and expanded work requirements are expected to negatively impact the ability of Ohioans to access healthy food.
3. Ohio's share of SNAP costs is projected to rise 268%, from \$146 million to nearly \$540 million, due to provisions in HR 1 that shift more administrative and benefit costs onto states.

### What is SNAP?

SNAP, previously known as the Food Stamp Program, is a public benefit that people with low incomes can use to supplement their food budgets and purchase food.<sup>3</sup> Currently, SNAP benefits are fully funded by the federal government, while administrative costs are shared equally between the federal and state governments.<sup>4</sup> SNAP covers a wide range of food items, which are shown in the table to the left.

## What can enrollees buy with SNAP?

✓ SNAP benefits CAN be used for	⊘ SNAP benefits CANNOT be used for
Fruits and vegetables	Toiletries and hygiene products
Meat, fish and poultry	Alcohol
Dairy products	Vitamins and supplements
Grains, cereal and bread	Baby products (e.g., diapers)
Seeds and plants (for food)	Cigarettes and tobacco products
Snacks	Prepared hot foods (in most states)
Non-alcoholic beverages	

Note: The USDA provides more information about which items are SNAP eligible.

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service

## SNAP Waivers

Many states have received approval or are currently pursuing **SNAP waivers** to alter the products that can be purchased with SNAP benefits, including restricting the use of benefits for sugar sweetened beverages, such as soft drinks, as well as candy. Ohio has **submitted or planned multiple waivers**, including one to ban sugary beverages, another to **limit purchases of imitation meat and egg products** and one to allow SNAP benefits to be used for hot rotisserie chickens.

## Who is eligible for SNAP?

Individuals and families with a gross monthly income (income earned before taxes) below 200% of the federal poverty level are generally eligible to receive SNAP benefits in Ohio.<sup>5</sup> In addition, participants must also meet other requirements, including U.S. citizenship or qualified immigration status, work requirements (with some exemptions), and state residency.<sup>6</sup> For more information, see Center on Budget and Policy Priorities **SNAP Eligibility Guide**.

SNAP benefit amounts are based on household income and certain living expenses.



of Ohioans are enrolled in SNAP (1.38 million people, 712,131 households)

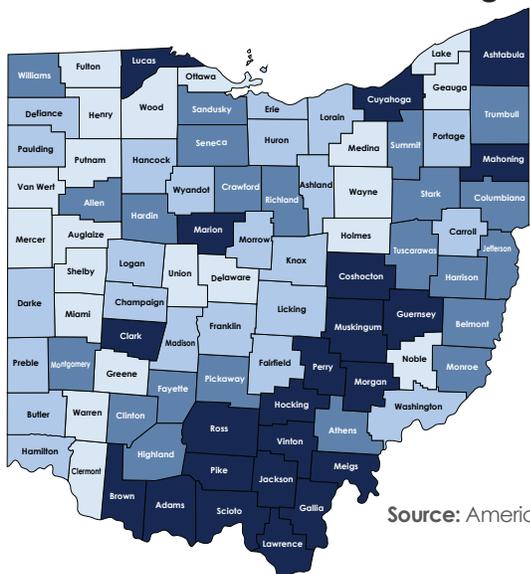
### Average SNAP benefit in Ohio (2024)

**\$191**  
per household  
(monthly)

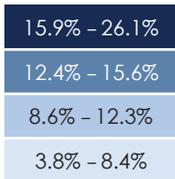
**\$6.28**  
per household  
member (daily)

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service

## Percent of households receiving SNAP benefits in the last 12 months, by county



SNAP enrollment varies significantly across Ohio counties, reflecting geographic differences in need and access



Source: American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates

## How does SNAP work in Ohio?

### Enrollment process

SNAP enrollment begins with an application submitted to the county Job and Family Services office. A caseworker follows up to complete a required eligibility interview to confirm household information and request verification documents. Once all information is provided, eligibility is determined within 30 days (or sooner for expedited cases). Benefits are issued monthly on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. Recipients must complete periodic recertifications to continue receiving assistance.<sup>7</sup> Most households update their case information at least every six months.<sup>8</sup>

## Administrative process

Ohio is one of only 10 states that operates under a county-administered, state-supervised structure. This means that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) provides statewide oversight, policy guidance and system support, while county Departments of Job and Family Services manage application processing, eligibility determination, interviews and ongoing case management.<sup>9</sup>

This approach differs from other states, where SNAP may be fully state-administered or operate under a state-local hybrid model.<sup>10</sup> Changes to the administrative cost-sharing structure in HR 1, described below, will impact how states administer SNAP.

## What changes are happening to SNAP?

HR 1 made substantial changes to SNAP that will affect eligibility for the program, as well as how Ohio and other states administer it. HPIO's [healthcare access and affordability series](#) provides more information on how HR 1 impacts other health programs like Medicaid.

### Changes to work requirements

SNAP includes a general work requirement for individuals age 16-59 without dependents or other exemptions. Requirements include registering for work, taking a suitable job if offered and not quitting or reducing hours without a good reason.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, individuals who are considered able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) are subject to additional requirements to keep SNAP benefits for more than three months over a three-year period.<sup>12</sup>

HR 1 expanded who must meet these SNAP ABAWD work requirements in order to keep benefits for more than three months. This will affect multiple groups who were previously exempt from ABAWD requirements, including older participants ages 55-64, parents of children ages 14 and older, and participants who are unhoused or veterans. These expanded work requirements, which went into effect in Ohio on Feb. 1, 2026, are likely to lead to some Ohioans losing SNAP benefits, particularly individuals who experience barriers to employment, such as an unstable local job market or lack of child care.<sup>13</sup>

Research on SNAP work requirements suggests that they decrease program participation but do not increase employment rates.<sup>14</sup> Even if participants meet requirements, they may experience barriers to verifying compliance, such as difficulties finding transportation to meet with a caseworker.<sup>15</sup>

### Changes to eligibility based on immigration status

HR 1 restricts SNAP eligibility for some groups of immigrants who were previously eligible for the program.<sup>16</sup> Groups of immigrants who lost SNAP eligibility upon enactment of the legislation include refugees, asylees and victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.<sup>17</sup> A smaller subset of immigrants remains eligible for SNAP, such as Cuban and Haitian entrants and green card holders.<sup>18</sup> While Ohio-specific estimates are not available, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that these changes will affect more than 90,000 immigrants nationally.<sup>19</sup>

### Ohioans at risk of losing SNAP

The following groups will no longer be exempt from working and/or participating in a work program for 80 hours per month because of HR 1:

Estimated number of Ohioans impacted

**Participants ages 55-64**  
(previous law exempted all individuals age 55 and older)

42k

**Parents of children ages 14 and older**  
(previous law exempted parents of any child under age 18)

21k

**Participants who are unhoused, veterans and those who are 24 and younger who have aged out of foster care**

17k

Sources: Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and ODJFS



### Eligibility overlap with other safety-net programs

SNAP eligibility overlaps with other safety-net nutrition programs such as **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** and **school meal programs**. Families receiving SNAP are often automatically eligible for WIC and free school meals. Losing SNAP may require them to reapply, lose benefits or experience other challenges accessing nutrition supports.

## Changes to funding

HR 1 includes significant changes to SNAP financing that will shift additional costs onto states:

- **Administrative costs.** Beginning in October 2026, the federal government will cover 25% of administrative costs, rather than 50%, resulting in a \$67 million loss for Ohio, according to ODJFS estimates. More than 70% of this revenue (\$47.4 million) is typically allocated to counties to manage the program locally, though some counties already shoulder part of the administrative costs.<sup>20</sup>
- **SNAP benefit costs:** The federal government currently covers 100% of SNAP benefits. Beginning in October 2027, HR 1 requires that states pay for a portion of SNAP benefits depending on their payment error rate (defined as an overpayment or underpayment of \$57 or more). Only states with an error rate below 6% will avoid assuming any additional costs. Importantly, these errors can stem from the participant or the county/state administrator. Fraud is not a component of error rate calculations.<sup>21</sup>

## Ohio's share of SNAP costs, before and after HR 1



Source: Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality

## Benefits costs assumed by state depending on error rate

Payment error rate (based on FFY 2025 or 2026 data)	% of SNAP benefits the state must pay	Estimated cost for Ohio
Less than 6%	N/A	\$0
6 – 7.99%	5%	\$161 million
8 – 9.99%	10%	\$321 million
10% or higher	15%	\$482 million

In 2024, Ohio's SNAP error rate was 9.13%.<sup>22</sup> This would mean that Ohio would need to pay 10% of SNAP benefits, amounting to \$321 million annually. States will be able to use their payment error rate for federal fiscal year 2025 or 2026, meaning it is not yet known what percentage of SNAP benefit costs that Ohio will need to pay beginning in 2027.

HR 1 also terminated funding for **SNAP-Ed**, which was an evidence-based program that provided nutrition and lifestyle initiatives such as cooking instruction, nutrition education classes and social marketing campaigns.<sup>23</sup> Ohio received \$13 million for SNAP-Ed in 2024, which benefited 283,000 Ohioans.<sup>24</sup>

## Resources

- **County Fact Sheets** Ohio Association of Foodbanks
- **Am I exempt from SNAP work requirements? Has my eligibility status changed?** Center for Community Solutions

For more information about changes to SNAP from HR 1, see the following resources:

- **USDA Federal Guidance on HR 1**
- **National Association of County Organizations Report**

## Notes

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