WHAT IS SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps eligible, low-income individuals and families in Pennsylvania. SNAP benefits are provided monthly via an Electronic Benefit Transfer card, which recipients use to purchase foods at their local grocery stores and farmers markets. SNAP benefits are not cash, and can only be used on food purchases.

FACTS ABOUT SNAP

SNAP is 100% federally funded.

SNAP must be used to purchase groceries. It cannot be used to buy nonfoods, alcohol or cigarettes, hot foods, or medicines.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON SNAP IN PA: 1.8 MILLION

- 695,405 are children
- 184,406 are older adults
- 687,739 have disabilities
- 17,171 are ABAWDs

$243 is the average monthly benefit amount for a two-person household.

That’s about $4 per person daily.

ABAWDs stands for “Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents,” who are subject to work requirements.

Children and older adult numbers overlap with disability numbers.
**WHY SNAP MATTERS**

**For children**
SNAP improves:
- High school graduation rates
- Adult earnings
- Adult health

Kids in families receiving SNAP were significantly more likely to be classified as ‘well’ than kids whose families were eligible but did not receive SNAP.

**For seniors**
Seniors who are food insecure have:
- Diets that are less nutritious
- Worse health outcomes
- Higher risk for depression

Seniors enrolled in SNAP:
- Have better health
- Use less acute & long-term care
- Cost less in Medicaid/Medicare when compared with seniors not on SNAP

**Better health care**
A four-year study in Maryland compared residents age 65 and older who received SNAP with those who did not. The study found that SNAP beneficiaries had:
- 13% fewer hospitalizations
- 10% fewer ER visits
- $2,120/year less in medical costs
- A 23% reduction in nursing facility use
- A shorter length of stay when in a hospital or nursing facility

**RELATED:** Learn about the programs connecting SNAP recipients to employment in PA at [bit.ly/dhs-employment-programs](bit.ly/dhs-employment-programs)