Michigan

Food Assistance Program

January 21, 2025

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's most important and effective anti-hunger program. It plays a critical role in reducing poverty, improving health and economic outcomes, supporting people who are paid low wages, and serving as the first line of defense against hunger during economic downturns.

Whom Does SNAP Reach?

In federal fiscal year 2024, it helped:

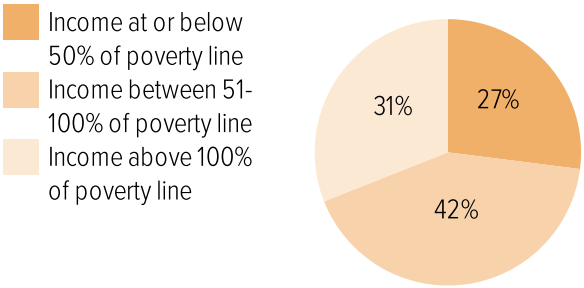
- **1,474,400** Michigan residents, or **15%** of the state population **(1 in 7)**
- **41,697,500** participants in the United States, or **12%** of the total population **(1 in 8)**

MICHIGAN	more than **59%** of SNAP participants are in families with children	more than **39%** are in families with members who are older adults or are disabled	more than **46%** are in working families
NATIONALLY	more than **62%** of SNAP participants are in families with children	more than **37%** are in families with members who are older adults or are disabled	more than **38%** are in working families

Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service[a]

Most SNAP Participants in Michigan Have Incomes Below the Poverty Line

Share of participants by household income, fiscal year 2022



Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service.

Many Michigan households struggle to put food on the table. The most recent data show in 2023:

- **13.0%** of households were "food insecure," meaning that their access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources.[b]
- **13.5%** of the population lived below the poverty line.
- **17.6%** of children lived in families below the poverty line.
- **10.6%** of older adults lived below the poverty line.

SNAP reaches populations in need: 85% of eligible individuals participated in SNAP in **Michigan** in pre-pandemic 2020.

SNAP lifted **232,000** people above the poverty line in **Michigan**, including **101,000** children, per year between 2015 and 2019, on average. (These figures adjust for households' underreporting of benefits.)

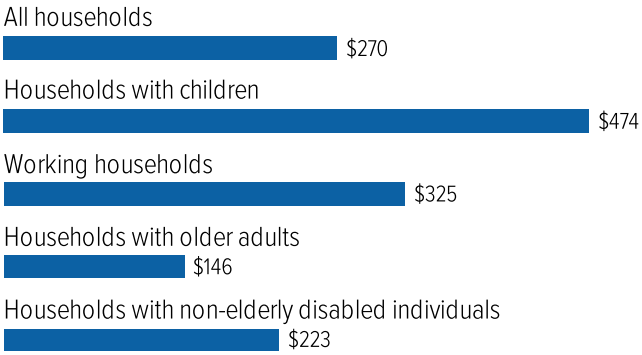
What Benefits Do SNAP Participants Receive?

SNAP targets benefits according to need. Households with very low incomes receive more SNAP benefits than households closer to the poverty line because they need more help affording adequate food. SNAP participants in Michigan received $3.06 billion in benefits in 2024.

Because of a congressionally mandated re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan — the basis of SNAP benefits — that took effect in 2022, SNAP benefits are higher and better aligned with the cost of a healthy, realistic diet. Nationally, the revision increased SNAP benefits from about $4.80 to about $6.20 per person per day in 2024.

	Average SNAP benefit in nominal dollars, fiscal year 2024
For each household member per month:	**$173**
For each household member per day:	**$5.69**

Average Monthly SNAP Benefit, Fiscal Year 2022, Michigan



Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service.[c]

How Does SNAP Benefit the Economy?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that in a weak economy, $1 in SNAP benefits generates $1.50 in economic activity. Households receive SNAP benefits on electronic benefit transfer cards, which can be used only to purchase food at one of about 261,400 authorized retail locations around the country, including some 9,800 in Michigan.

Notes: In addition to SNAP, in FY 2024 an average of about 1,200 individuals in Michigan received benefits through the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), which is a federal program that provides commodity foods to low-income households, including the elderly, living on Indian reservations, and to Native American families residing in designated areas near reservations and in the State of Oklahoma.

For more information on SNAP, including Michigan-specific information, please see:
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Chart Book: https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/chart-book-snap-helps-struggling-families-put-food-on-the-table
USDA SNAP data: http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap
Michigan SNAP program: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71547_5527---,00.html
Advocates: Center for Civil Justice, www.ccj-mi.org, Michigan League for Public Policy, www.mlpp.org

[a] SNAP participant counts are based on FY 2024 USDA administrative data. Demographic shares are based on FY 2022 SNAP Quality Control data.

[b] The state food insecurity rate is a three-year average for the years 2021 to 2023.

[c] To better approximate the current SNAP program, these figures exclude the temporary pandemic-related SNAP benefits, which still were in effect at the start of fiscal year 2022 in all states except AR, FL, ID, MO, MT, NE, ND and SD.