



Millions of Meals Lost Under a SNAP Block Grant

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the cornerstone in the federal nutrition safety net. SNAP helps ensure families going through hard times have the resources they need to purchase food through regular commercial channels. The program was designed to respond to changes in need. The number of people relying on SNAP rose during the economic downturn and continues to fall as the economy slowly improves. This structure has served the program, and those with low incomes, very well over time.

For the past few years, the House has approved a budget plan that would cut SNAP and turn it into a block grant to states. The block grant proposal released in April 2016 would have cut the program by \$125 billion – almost 30 percent – over six years from 2021 to 2026. Around 90 percent, or \$111 billion, of SNAP spending goes for food assistance, so a cut of this magnitude would necessarily lead to a reduction in meals, or complete loss of benefits, for millions of low-income families. Such significant cuts would be devastating to the families who rely on SNAP to make ends meet. This loss –which could be more than 10 billion meals a year nationally – could not be made up by charities and communities would be left with fewer resources to ensure their neighbors have enough food.

The table below provides an estimate of the meals that would be lost per year in every state under the most recent House SNAP block grant proposal.

Illustrative State-by-State Impact of House Budget Committee's Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 SNAP Block-Grant Cut

State/Territory	Proportional Distribution of Cuts, Fiscal Years 2021-2026 (in millions)	Total Meals Lost	Meals Lost Per Year
Alabama	\$2,100	1,193,181,818	198,863,636
Alaska	\$300	170,454,545	28,409,091
Arizona	\$2,300	1,306,818,182	217,803,030
Arkansas	\$1,000	568,181,818	94,696,970
California	\$12,000	6,818,181,818	1,136,363,636
Colorado	\$1,200	681,818,182	113,636,364
Connecticut	\$1,100	625,000,000	104,166,667
Delaware	\$400	227,272,727	37,878,788
District of Columbia	\$400	227,272,727	37,878,788
Florida	\$9,100	5,170,454,545	861,742,424
Georgia	\$4,500	2,556,818,182	426,136,364
Guam	\$200	113,636,364	18,939,394
Hawaii	\$800	454,545,455	75,757,576
Idaho	\$400	227,272,727	37,878,788
Illinois	\$5,300	3,011,363,636	501,893,939
Indiana	\$2,000	1,136,363,636	189,393,939

Iowa	\$800	454,545,455	75,757,576
Kansas	\$600	340,909,091	56,818,182
Kentucky	\$1,800	1,022,727,273	170,454,545
Louisiana	\$2,100	1,193,181,818	198,863,636
Maine	\$400	227,272,727	37,878,788
Maryland	\$1,800	1,022,727,273	170,454,545
Massachusetts	\$1,900	1,079,545,455	179,924,242
Michigan	\$3,800	2,159,090,909	359,848,485
Minnesota	\$1,000	568,181,818	94,696,970
Mississippi	\$1,500	852,272,727	142,045,455
Missouri	\$2,000	1,136,363,636	189,393,939
Montana	\$300	170,454,545	28,409,091
Nebraska	\$400	227,272,727	37,878,788
Nevada	\$1,000	568,181,818	94,696,970
New Hampshire	\$200	113,636,364	18,939,394
New Jersey	\$2,100	1,193,181,818	198,863,636
New Mexico	\$1,100	625,000,000	104,166,667
New York	\$8,000	4,545,454,545	757,575,758
North Carolina	\$3,800	2,159,090,909	359,848,485
North Dakota	\$100	56,818,182	9,469,697
Ohio	\$4,000	2,272,727,273	378,787,879
Oklahoma	\$1,400	795,454,545	132,575,758
Oregon	\$1,800	1,022,727,273	170,454,545
Pennsylvania	\$4,300	2,443,181,818	407,196,970
Rhode Island	\$500	284,090,909	47,348,485
South Carolina	\$1,900	1,079,545,455	179,924,242
South Dakota	\$200	113,636,364	18,939,394
Tennessee	\$3,000	1,704,545,455	284,090,909
Texas	\$8,400	4,772,727,273	795,454,545
Utah	\$500	284,090,909	47,348,485
Vermont	\$200	113,636,364	18,939,394
Virgin Islands	\$100	56,818,182	9,469,697
Virginia	\$2,000	1,136,363,636	189,393,939
Washington	\$2,400	1,363,636,364	227,272,727
West Virginia	\$800	454,545,455	75,757,576
Wisconsin	\$1,700	965,909,091	160,984,848
Wyoming	\$100	56,818,182	9,469,697
United States	\$111,000	63,068,181,818	10,511,363,636

Note: Feeding America analysis based on estimates of lost benefits by states from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *House 2017 Budget Plan Would Slash SNAP by More than \$150 Billion Over Ten Years*, March 21, 2016. <http://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/house-2017-budget-plan-would-slash-snap-by-more-than-150-billion-over-ten>. See Table 1 in the report for methods and assumptions behind the proportional distribution of cuts. The calculation of meals lost is based on the 2016 Thrifty Food Plan meal cost of \$1.76 per meal over the six year period of 2021-2026 over which cuts were proposed.