

## TRUMP BUDGET: SNAP (NUTRITION ASSISTANCE) CUTS

*President Trump's budget takes direct aim at the most vulnerable in our society. The budget slashes an unprecedented \$200 billion in food stamps, which are a critical lifeline for millions of Americans including one in five children.*

### Trump's Budget Included An Unprecedented Call For Nearly \$200 Billion In Cuts To The Food Stamp Program, Known As SNAP

**Trump's Budget Proposal Cut \$192 Billion From Food Stamps Over 10 Years.** According to The New York Times, "President Trump plans to unveil on Tuesday a \$4.1 trillion budget for 2018 that would cut deeply into programs for the poor, from health care and food stamps to student loans and disability payments, laying out an austere vision for reordering the nation's priorities. [...] Over the next decade, it calls for slashing more than \$800 billion from Medicaid, the federal health program for the poor, while slicing \$192 billion from nutritional assistance and \$272 billion over all from welfare programs." [New York Times, [5/22/17](#)]

- **The Cuts Would Amount to A 25% Reduction Over The Next Decade.** According to the Associated Press, "Cuts include a whopping \$193 billion from food stamps over the coming decade — a cut of more than 25 percent — implemented by cutting back eligibility and imposing additional work requirements, according to talking points circulated by the White House. The program presently serves about 42 million people." [Associated Press, [5/21/17](#)]
- **AP: "The Food Stamp Cuts Are Several Times Larger Than Those Attempted By House Republicans A Few Years Back."** According to the Associated Press, "The food stamp cuts are several times larger than those attempted by House Republicans a few years back and comprise the bulk of a 10-year, \$274 billion proposal that's labeled as welfare reform." [Associated Press, [5/21/17](#)]
- **AP: "Trump's Budget Would Drive Millions Of People Off Of Food Stamps."** According to the Associated Press, "President Donald Trump's budget would drive millions of people off of food stamps, part of a new wave of spending cut proposals that already are getting panned by lawmakers in both parties on Capitol Hill." [Associated Press, [5/21/17](#)]

### SNAP Has Provided A Lifeline To Millions Of Vulnerable Americans

#### SNAP PRIMARILY BENEFITS CHILDREN, SENIORS, AND THE DISABLED LIVING AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

**Center On Budget And Policy Priorities: "The Overwhelming Majority Of SNAP Participants Are Children, Seniors, Or People With Disabilities."** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "The overwhelming majority of SNAP participants are children, seniors, or people with disabilities. Close to half of all participants are children, and over half of all non-elderly, non-disabled adult participants live with children. SNAP serves particularly vulnerable families. Nearly 90 percent of participants are in households that contain a child under age 18, an elderly person 60 years or older, or an individual with disabilities." [CBPP, [3/1/17](#)]

**CBPP: "Over 80 Percent Of SNAP Households Have Gross Incomes At Or Below The Poverty Line" And "Two Of Every Five SNAP Households Have Incomes At Or Below Half Of The Poverty**

**Line.”** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “Over 80 percent of SNAP households have gross incomes at or below the poverty line (\$24,300 for a family of four in 2016, and \$11,880 for a person living alone, such as an elderly widow) while they are receiving SNAP. Almost all of the rest have incomes between 101 and 130 percent of poverty. Two of every five SNAP households have incomes at or below half of the poverty line (about \$10,080 for a family of three in 2016). Some 92 percent of SNAP benefits go to households below the poverty line; 57 percent go to households with incomes at or below half of the poverty line.” [CBPP, [3/1/17](#)]

### **In 2014, SNAP Kept 8.4 Million Out Of Poverty**

**CBPP: “In 2014, SNAP Kept About 8.4 Million People Out Of Poverty, Including About 3.8 Million Children.”** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “SNAP helps millions of households lift themselves out of poverty. By providing benefits that must be used to purchase food, SNAP is an important part of a low-income household’s budget. In 2014 (the most recent year available), SNAP kept about 8.4 million people out of poverty, including about 3.8 million children, according to a CBPP analysis that uses the Supplemental Poverty Measure — which counts SNAP as income — and corrects for households’ underreporting of benefits. This analysis also found that SNAP lifted 2.1 million children out of deep poverty (defined as 50 percent of the poverty line) in 2014, more than any other government assistance program.” [CBPP, [3/1/17](#)]

### **SNAP Income Has Helped Cut The Number OF Extremely Poor Households In Half**

**CBPP: Counting SNAP Benefits As Income Has The Number Of Extremely Poor Households By Nearly Half.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “SNAP is a powerful antidote to extreme poverty. The number of extremely poor families — those living on less than \$2 per person a day — more than doubled between 1996 and 2011 and the number of extremely poor children doubled. However, counting SNAP benefits as income cuts the number of extremely poor households in 2011 by nearly half (from 1.6 million to 857,000) and, when combined with supports like housing assistance and refundable tax credits, cuts the number of extremely poor children by more than half (from 3.6 million to 1.2 million).” [CBPP, [3/1/17](#)]

## **MILLIONS OF CHILDREN RELY ON SNAP**

### **1 In 5 American Children Rely On SNAP**

**In 2015, 1 In 5 Children Were Helped By Food Stamps.** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, “The number of children receiving food stamps remains higher than it was before the start of the Great Recession in 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s annual Families and Living Arrangements table package released today. The rate of children living with married parents who receive food stamps has doubled since 2007. In 2014, an estimated 16 million children, or about one in five, received food stamp assistance compared with the roughly 9 million children, or one in eight, that received this form of assistance prior to the recession.” [U.S. Census Bureau, [1/28/15](#)]

### **SNAP Has Greatly Reduced Child Food Insecurity Helping To Promote Healthy Development**

**CBPP: SNAP Benefits Have Reduced “Food Insecurity Among High-Risk Children By 20 Percent And Improve Their Overall Health By 35 Percent.”** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “Studies have found that SNAP benefits reduce ‘food insecurity,’ which occurs when households lack consistent access to nutritious food because of limited resources. One study found that SNAP benefits

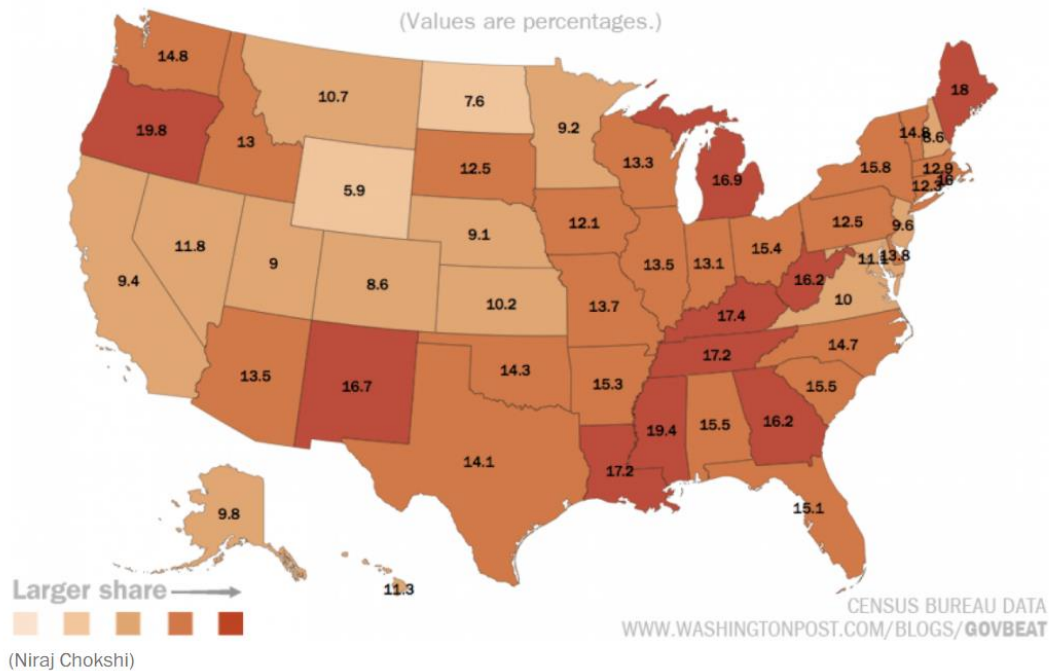
can reduce food insecurity among high-risk children by 20 percent and improve their overall health by 35 percent.” [CBPP, 3/1/17]

**CBPP: “Children With Access To Food Stamps Were Less Likely In Adulthood To Have Stunted Growth, Be Diagnosed With Heart Disease, Or Be Obese” And Were “More Likely To Graduate From High School.”** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “Researchers comparing the long-term outcomes of individuals in different areas of the country when SNAP gradually expanded nationwide in the 1960s and early 1970s found that disadvantaged children who had access to food stamps (as they were then called) in early childhood and whose mothers had access during their pregnancy had better health and educational outcomes as adults than children who didn’t have access to food stamps. Among other things, children with access to food stamps were less likely in adulthood to have stunted growth, be diagnosed with heart disease, or be obese. They also were more likely to graduate from high school.” [CBPP, 3/1/17]

## Americans Across The Country Rely On SNAP To Make Ends Meet And Keep Food On The Table

### TRUMP’S FOOD STAMP CUTS WOULD BE FELT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

#### Households receiving food stamps (2013)



[Washington Post, 3/3/15]

**33-Year-Old Carly Poe, A Single Mom From Portland, Used SNAP Benefits To Provide For Her 14 Year Old Son While She Juggled School And Work.** According to TIME, “For the subjects of this LightBox feature, however, and for the millions like them who depend on SNAP, every little bit that gets chipped away hurts. [...] Take Carly Poe, a 33-year-old single mom from Portland, Ore. She’s working on her Master’s in Public Health at Portland State University so that she’ll one day be able to provide more for her family. She works about 10 hours a week, part-time, at the hospital where her 14-year-old son was treated for

cancer as a baby. She's one of 805,000 Oregonians, about 20% of the state's population, who depend on SNAP. Though her benefits were only set to fall to \$220 from \$240, she and her son received about \$120 for food in February— money she says lasted about a week. In March she received \$220, which she says will last just over two weeks, at most. To supplement her SNAP funds, Carly gets creative with her bills; she takes money she would use for bills and buys food. (She says it's like playing a game of Tetris). 'I try to make sure we eat healthy, fresh food and it's getting hard to do,' Poe says. 'We're struggling.'" [TIME, [3/31/14](#)]

**73-Year-Old Detroit Residents Willie Smith And B. Hillman-Rushell Depend On SNAP To Supplement Their Social Security Benefits.** According to TIME, "Willie Smith, a 73-year-old from Detroit and J.B. Hillman-Rushell, who moved from Georgia to Detroit to care for her mother with Alzheimer's, are two of the millions of seniors who depend on SNAP to supplement their Social Security benefits. Smith, a retired clerical worker, receives about \$1091 a month in Social Security, the majority of which she uses to pay for her Medicare premium, life insurance, rent, and transportation. Whatever is left is added to the \$43 she gets to pay for food. Hillman-Rushell and her mom receive \$14. 'We can get about four things out of that,' she says." [TIME, [3/31/14](#)]

**Christine Gilbert Of Southwest Missouri Relied On Food Stamps To Feed Her Family While She Worked Jobs That Never Paid More Than \$11 Per Hour.** According to an op-ed by Christine Gilbert of Southwest Missouri for Vox, "My name is Christine, and I get food stamps. I've had to apply off and on over the past 16 years in order to make sure my family was fed. I don't feel the least bit ashamed of myself for this, but apparently some people think I should. [...] I've been poor for most of my adult life, with the occasional foray into struggling. My first job was working at Taco Bell in college. Since then, I've worked mostly in the food service industry. I've worked fast-food, casual dining, and high-end restaurants. Once or twice I've picked up work as a clerk at gas stations and convenience stores. The job with the best pay and benefits was as kitchen supervisor at the county jail, which involved running herd on up to eight trustees for 12 hours a day while they cooked breakfast and lunch for the other inmates. What all of these jobs have in common is low pay, often brutal or unpredictable hours, and an element of personal danger. They are not easy jobs to do, and I'm proud of my skills, but I've never made more than \$11 an hour at any of them." [Christine Gilbert – Vox, [6/26/15](#)]

**TRUMP VOTERS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HARD-HIT BY THE CUTS**

## Trump's proposed cuts to food stamps will hurt his voters

Of the 10 states with the highest share of residents receiving SNAP assistance, seven went to Donald Trump in the 2016 election.

State	Pct. of total votes Trump received	Pct. of population enrolled in SNAP
New Mexico	40.0%	22.4%
Mississippi	57.9%	20.0%
District of Columbia	4.2%	19.7%
West Virginia	68.6%	19.6%
Louisiana	58.1%	18.6%
Oregon	40.6%	18.2%
Alabama	62.7%	17.8%
Florida	49.0%	17.3%
Georgia	51.0%	16.8%
Tennessee	61.1%	16.8%



Source: US Census Bureau, US Department of Agriculture, Associated Press

[CNN, [5/22/17](#)]