The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation’s most important anti-hunger program.

**Whom Does SNAP Reach?**

In Fiscal Year 2017, it reached:

- **929,000** Washington residents, or **13%** of the state population *(1 in 8)*
- **42,000,000** participants in the United States, or **13%** of the total population *(1 in 8)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WASHINGTON</th>
<th>Washington</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNAP participants in families with children</td>
<td>more than 59%</td>
<td>more than 68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP participants in families with elderly or disabilities</td>
<td>almost 33%</td>
<td>almost 33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP participants in working families</td>
<td>more than 42%</td>
<td>more than 44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Most SNAP Participants in Washington Are Poor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Bracket</th>
<th>Share</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51-100% of poverty</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At or below 50% of poverty</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 100% of poverty</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CBPP analysis of FY 2017 USDA SNAP Household Characteristics data

**Many Washington households struggle to put food on the table.**

- **10.8%** of households were “food insecure,” or struggled to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.
- Median income was **7.7% above** the 2007 level, after adjusting for inflation.
- **11%** of the population lived below the poverty line.
- **14.3%** of children lived below the poverty line.
- **8%** of elderly lived below the poverty line.

**SNAP reaches needy populations: Between 95 and 100% of eligible individuals participated in SNAP in Washington in 2015, and 82% of eligible workers participated.**

SNAP kept **208,000** people out of poverty in Washington, including **96,000** children, per year between 2009 and 2012, on average. (These figures adjust for households’ underreporting of benefits.)
What Benefits Do SNAP Recipients Receive?

SNAP targets benefits according to need. Very poor households receive more SNAP benefits than households closer to the poverty line since they need more help affording an adequate diet. SNAP recipients in Washington received $1.36 billion in benefits in 2017.

Fiscal Year 2017

| Average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member: | $122 |
| Average SNAP benefit per person per meal: | $1.34 |

Average Monthly SNAP Benefit By Demographic Group, FY 2017, Washington

- All Households: $25
- Households with children: $359
- Working households: $265
- Households with seniors: $126
- Households with non-elderly disabled individuals: $158


How Does SNAP Benefit the Economy?

Moody's Analytics estimates that in a weak economy, $1 in SNAP benefits generates $1.70 in economic activity. Households receive SNAP benefits on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which can be used only to purchase food at one of the 263,100 authorized retail locations around the country, including some 5,100 in Washington.

For more information on SNAP, including Washington-specific information, please see:

- USDA SNAP data: http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap
- Washington SNAP program: http://www.dshs.wa.gov/onlinecso/food_assistance_program.shtml

Notes: In addition to SNAP, in FY 2017, based on preliminary data, an average of about 3,200 individuals in Washington 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.