QUESTIONS?
ASK QUESTIONS USING THE CHAT BOX FEATURE

✦ Ask questions at any time using the Chat Box Feature

✦ We will answer as many questions during the webinar as possible. We’ll follow up on all unanswered questions via e-mail or phone after the webinar.

✦ A recorded copy of the webinar will be posted on EverThrive IL’s website in the coming days: http://everthriveil.org/resources/starting-strong-webinars

For questions related to this and other Starting Strong webinars: kszafranski@everthriveil.org
SNAP 101

• The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) is the nation’s most important and effective anti-hunger program.

• SNAP distributes monthly benefits to qualifying, low-income households through an EBT card that can only be used to purchase food.

• In 2016, 1 in 7 Illinoisans participated in the SNAP program.

• SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded.

• In 2016, SNAP benefits contributed $3.0 billion into Illinois’ economy.
Food assistance is a supplement

The average amount of SNAP benefits isn’t enough to become dependent on, which is why the majority of food stamp recipients who can work already do so.

Average SNAP benefits in Illinois:

$132 per month or $1.47 per meal

Close to Two-Thirds of SNAP Recipients Are Children, Elderly, or Disabled

- Non-elderly, non-disabled adults: 36%
- Children: 44%
- Elderly/disabled: 20%
- With children: 21%
- Without children: 15%

Source: CBPP tabulations of USDA 2015 SNAP household characteristics data.
• Almost 65% of SNAP participants are in families with children.

• Almost 28% are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities

• Almost 41% are in working families.

Snapshot of Illinois SNAP Participants

Share of participants by household income, FY 2015

- Income above 100% of poverty: 46%
- Income at or below 50% of poverty: 14%
- Income between 51-100% of poverty: 40%

Source: CBPP analysis of FY 2015 USDA SNAP Household Characteristics data
SNAP works!

- SNAP is targeted at need and reduces poverty.

- SNAP reduces food insecurity 20 to 30%.

- SNAP helps put food on the table and improves short and long-term health and well-being.

- **New study**: SNAP participation among seniors reduced the odds of hospitalization by 14%, and reduced duration of stay if admitted.

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**Children With Access to SNAP Fare Better Years Later**

Percentage-point change in outcomes for adults who received SNAP as children, compared to adults who did not receive SNAP as children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>SNAP Access</th>
<th>No SNAP Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stunted growth</td>
<td>-6%</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school completion</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Boosting Benefits = Improving Health

- Increase consumption of more nutritious foods, notably vegetables and certain healthy sources of protein.

- Reduce consumption of fast food, while increasing the amount of time households spend shopping for and preparing food.

- Reduce food insecurity.

- **New study**: Every $10 increase in benefits further reduced the odds of additional days in the hospital.

### Higher SNAP Benefits Mean More Groceries, Better Nutrition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Meat***</th>
<th>Poultry*</th>
<th>Vegetables***</th>
<th>Fast food***</th>
<th>Food insecurity**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Impact</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>-2.5%</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***, **, *** indicate relationship is significant for a two-sided test at the 0.15, 0.10, 0.05 level or better, respectively.

Source: Authors’ analysis of National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 2007-2012.
Who can apply for SNAP?

- Anyone
- Ineligible non-citizens may apply for other household members
- State agencies **may not:**
  - Verify the immigration status of those applying on behalf of others; or
  - Deny a household if a non-applicant member does not disclose their immigration status or Social Security number
- Household members that apply for SNAP must provide proof of eligible immigration status

Why is this important? Most eligible children rely on the adults in the home to apply on their behalf in order to receive the help they need.
Application Process

**General Application Process:**
- ✓ Submit application in person, over the phone, or online
- ✓ Interview to be scheduled within 14 days
- ✓ Decision to be issued within 30 days
- ✓ Applicant must be notified in writing via letter
- ✓ Upon approval, Link Card is mailed

**Expedited Process:**
- ✓ Monthly income < $150 and assets <$100
- OR
- ✓ (Rent/mortgage + utilities) > (income + assets)
- ✓ Upon approval, Link Card is mailed within 5 days of the application
Who is in a household?

• Members are in the same “household” if they purchase and prepare meals together.

• Certain people must be considered together:
  • Parents and children (up until age 22)
  • Children living with a caretaker (up until age 18)
  • Spouses

• Individuals who are in the same food stamp household will be on the same case, and the entire household’s income, assets, and expenses will be considered.

• “Qualified Member” households include:
  • Elderly—60 or over
  • Disabled—receiving disability benefits
Income Eligibility

- There are 2 types of SNAP Monthly Income Standards: Gross Monthly Income and Net Monthly Income. SNAP units must meet the Gross Monthly Income Standard with a few exceptions.

- Illinois has no asset test in order to receive SNAP benefits.

- As of 2016, Illinois has new income standards (130% FPL to 165% FPL) due to the advocacy work of the Shriver Center and Heartland Alliance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of People in Your Household</th>
<th>Maximum Gross Monthly Income</th>
<th>Maximum Gross Monthly Income (Age 60 and Over or Disabled)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,634</td>
<td>$1,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$2,203</td>
<td>$2,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$2,772</td>
<td>$3,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$3,342</td>
<td>$4,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$3,911</td>
<td>$4,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$4,480</td>
<td>$5,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$5,051</td>
<td>$6,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$5,623</td>
<td>$6,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>$6,195</td>
<td>$7,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>$6,767</td>
<td>$8,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional person add</td>
<td>$572</td>
<td>$693</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students enrolled at least half-time in postsecondary or vocational training may be eligible for SNAP if they are:

- Under 18 or over 50,
- Working an average of 20 hours per week,
- Participating in state or federal work study program,
- Receiving TANF cash assistance,
- Responsible for the care of a child under 6,
- Responsible for the care of a child between 6 and 12 and adequate child care is not available for school and work, OR
- Enrolled full-time and single parent of child under 12.

If they do not meet these requirements, the student and their income and assets will be excluded from the household.
Immigrant Eligibility

Non-citizens who are eligible immediately:

- Citizen (by birth or naturalization)
- Refugees
- Trafficking victims
- Asylees or Deportation Withheld
- Amerasians
- Cuban and Haitian entrants
- Iraqi and Afghan special immigrants
- Certain American Indians born abroad
- Hmong or Highland Laotian tribal members
- Qualified alien children under 18
- Lawful permanent residents receiving benefits or assistance for blindness or disability
- Elderly who were lawfully residing in the U.S. and 65 or older on August 22, 1996
- Lawful permanent residents with military connections
Immigrant Eligibility

Eligible non-citizens after 5 yr. waiting period:

- Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)
- Paroled for at least one year under section 212(d)(5) of INA
- Granted conditional entry under 203(a)(7) of INA in effect prior to 4/1/80.
- Battered spouse, battered child or parent or child of a battered person with a petition pending under 204(a)(1)(A) or (B) or 244(a)(3) of INA.

**Must also meet income requirements**
Benefit levels

- SNAP expects families receiving benefits to spend 30 percent of their net income on food.

- Net income is determined after a set of deductions are applied including:
  - Earnings (20%)
  - Standard
  - Excess shelter costs*
  - Dependent care
  - Medical expenses (QM only)

- Therefore, the monthly SNAP benefit equals the maximum benefit for that household size minus the household’s expected 30% contribution.

Example: If family of 3 had $600 in net monthly income, it would receive the maximum benefit ($511) minus 30 percent of its net income (30 percent of $600 is $180), or $331.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of People in Your Household</th>
<th>Maximum Gross Monthly Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$ 194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$ 357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$ 511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$ 649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$ 771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$ 925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$ 1,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$ 1,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>$ 1,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>$ 1,461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For each additional person, add $146
How to use your SNAP benefits

- SNAP benefits are distributed monthly onto an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which functions as a debit card that is accepted at most grocery stores.

- In Illinois, the EBT card is referred to as the “Illinois Link Card”.

- The EBT card cannot be to purchase:
  - Hot foods ready to eat,
  - Food intended to be heated in the store,
  - Lunch counter items or foods to be eaten in the store,
  - Vitamins or medicines,
  - Pet foods,
  - Any nonfood items (except seeds and plants),
  - Alcoholic beverages,
  - Tobacco
SNAP & Work
Most adults are already working throughout the year

Three-quarters of childless adults are employed within a year of receiving SNAP

Share of non-disabled childless adults employed within year of SNAP receipt

Source: CBPP Analysis of 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) panel data
SNAP recipients subject to work rules are especially vulnerable

The most detailed study found the group unable to meet work requirements SNAP in Ohio had:

- Low levels of education;
- Mental or physical limitations;
- Undiagnosed learning disorders, intellectual disabilities, and autism;
- Gaps in employment records deterring employers and felony convictions making it difficult to pass background checks.
- And other significant barriers to work.

The subset of men and women vulnerable to SNAP work rules is particularly poor.

Average monthly income: $283
Average monthly SNAP benefit: $138
Federal Work Rules

SNAP currently has three federal work rules:

1. Work provisions
2. Employment and Training (E&T)
3. Time limit
1. **Work provisions:**
   - Across Illinois
   - Required, with some exceptions, of adults between the ages of 16 and 60 years of age
   - Agree to: register for work, accept job offers, not voluntarily quit or reduce hours
   - Cooperate with E&T
2. Employment and Training (E&T)

- Mandatory in specific counties
- Participation is required of able-bodied adults without dependents
- Sanctions for noncompliance
- Services vary from job search to education

Map Source: Illinois Hunger Coalition
Federal Work Rules

E&T Assignments
(anticipated per month)
3. The time limit—a unique and harsh federal policy
   • Currently waived statewide; will return to areas or all of the state in 2018, depending of Governor’s waiver requests
   • Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWDs) eligible for only 3 out of every 36 months benefits unless working or in job training at least 80 hours per month
   • Exceptions: medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for work; in a household with a child or someone with a disability.
   • Illinois has a waiver for this work requirement until 2018
   • There are Congressional proposals that would eliminate state waivers of this time limit
   • Recent report from Heartland Alliance: http://socialimpactresearchcenter.issuelab.org/resource/data_matters_who_are_the_illinoisans_likely_to_lose_food_assistance_in_2018
Due to high unemployment, Illinois has waived the time limit for 2017.

Illinois qualifies for a waiver in 2018 in all areas of the state except Dupage County.

If a waiver is not requested in 2018, the time limit will still fall hardest on those with low levels or education and training.

Most states are not prepared to implement and experience a precipitous caseload drop at month four.
Maintaining nutrition assistance

Living in an area with a mandatory E&T program:
- The state engages non-exempt SNAP recipient when a provider slot is available
- E&T caseworkers assess SNAP recipients, assign them to appropriate activities, and provide supportive services
- Sanctions for noncompliance but must be an appropriate assignment with adequate supports

Living in an area subject to the time limit:
- If a non-exempt SNAP recipient is working adequate hours, he or she needs to maintain these hours and will be on a shorter reporting cycle
- If a non-exempt SNAP recipient is not working, he or she needs to find 20 hours of work, education or training
- If a non-exempt SNAP recipient is looking for a job, additional hours, or a job training program, the time limit will still apply
Federal Threats to SNAP
• SNAP is an incredibly effective and responsive program

• If SNAP was turned into a block grant, Illinois would receive a fixed amount of SNAP funds regardless of need or the state of the economy

• Block grants would be a bad deal for the state of Illinois - that only gets worse over time
Increased Work Requirements

- SNAP already imposes rigorous work requirements.

- Work requirements don’t work to move recipients out of poverty, especially those with significant barriers.

- In contrast, voluntary employment programs can significantly increase employment without the negative impacts of ending basic assistance for individuals who can’t meet mandatory work requirements.
SNAP is key to the health and well-being of millions of low-income families and children.

Lawmakers who want to improve the health of SNAP recipients should build on and strengthen policies and programs that have proven effective—and not attack people for not having access to healthy foods.

- SNAP already helps families lead healthy lifestyles
- Restrictions on SNAP purchases will no address the barriers to healthy food faced by families
- Lawmakers can help low-income families access more healthy foods by building on SNAP as it currently exists
Increasing benefits improves health

Higher SNAP Benefits Mean More Groceries, Better Nutrition

Estimated impact on food consumption and food insecurity of $30 increase in monthly per capita benefits

- Meat***: 0.6%
- Poultry*: 1.0%
- Vegetables***: 1.5%
- Fast food***: -2.5%
- Food insecurity**: -0.7%

***, *, ** indicate relationship is significant for a two-sided test at the 0.15, 0.10, 0.05 level or better, respectively.

Source: Authors’ analysis of National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 2007-2012

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“State flexibility”

- Trump’s federal budget proposed a 29% or $193 billion cut to SNAP over 10 years

- State flexibility = shifting costs to states

- Trump’s budget requires states to pay 25% of SNAP benefits ($116 billion)

- Cash-strapped states (like IL) would not be able to match, effectively cutting benefits
What can you do?

1. Join the SNAP Advocates Email Group by emailing il-snap-advocates+subscribe@googlegroups.com or contact chelseadiaz@povertylaw.org

2. Share SNAP stories with us! https://goo.gl/forms/Ji37zDxJng7vdnYp2
SNAP Resources

- Illinois State SNAP Fact Sheet

- Blog: SNAP, A Key Ingredient to Ending Hunger
  https://theshriverbrief.org/snap-a-key-ingredient-to-ending-hunger-b94b488f610

- Hamilton Project - 12 Twelve Facts about Food Insecurity and SNAP
  http://www.hamiltonproject.org/papers/twelve_facts_about_food_insecurity_and_snap

- “This is SNAP” interactive website
  http://www.thisissnap.org/
HelpHub is a free crowdsourcing site for Illinois Enrollment Assistors and others who have public benefits questions.

Sign up here: [http://helphub.povertylaw.org](http://helphub.povertylaw.org)

1. Click “Ask” to type your question
2. Select “SNAP” as a Tag
3. A SNAP expert or other assister will answer
Case Example: Expedited SNAP

expedited snap benefits

hi: we had a gentleman today who lost his SNAP benefits. we're wondering if you can get SNAP expedited? and what are the requirements? and how can do so?

thx!


expedited benefits SNAP benefits + Add your own


Hi all--

DHS should identify and expedite applications that meet the federal requirement for expedited processing whether or not the customer/application assistant is aware of, or notes, the rules for expedited processing. However, since it never hurts to add a note at the end of the application that you expect your client to be eligible for expedited benefits, we recommend it.

MacKenzie

http://helphub.povertylaw.org/advice/16862
Case Example: Medicaid Redetermination/SNAP

Medicaid Redetermination for those with SNAP

Hi there,

I am wondering if I can get an outline of how the medicaid redetermination process is different if an individual is also receiving SNAP benefits. At what frequency does someone need to go through redetermination?

Thanks

Leana Lopez [Chicago] asked on August 10, 2016

SNAP benefits  + Add your own

3 answers


Hi Leana--

You've probably had to deal with the Illinois Medicaid Redetermination Project (IMRP) to assist consumers with medical-only cases. Until the Department rolls out IES Phase II (now expected at the end of September), the biggest difference for a case receiving SNAP and medical benefits is that both renewals will be processed by their local office instead of IMRP. The exception is when the family's SNAP and medical cases are unintentionally stored independently in the state's system--this might cause the state to believe the family only has medical benefits, so you'll want to follow the instructions on the redetermination paperwork.

As far as timing, full renewals for SNAP happen every 12-months, like Medicaid, but with a 6-month "Mid Point Report" which is much shorter than a full redetermination. If a family 1) has Medicaid and applies for SNAP or 2) has SNAP and Medicaid and their SNAP rede is due before their Medicaid rede, the state's current policy is to "align" the 12-month periods by proceeding with a Medicaid rede when the SNAP rede paperwork is submitted. In other words, caseworkers will act on information submitted for SNAP redeterminations to recertify a Medicaid case early, for another 12-month period. If this happened to a consumer you're working with, it shouldn't happen a second time since the two program renewals dates are now aligned.

Hopefully that helps!

MacKenzie

http://helphub.povertylaw.org/advice/18108
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  kszafranski@everthriveil.org

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For questions related to this and other Starting Strong webinars: kszafranski@everthriveil.org
A note about Healthcare...

- Republicans in Congress are trying to pass an ACA Repeal Bill **this week**.

- Get engaged with Protect Our Care Illinois for up-to-date information and learn how to get involved!
  - Visit our website: [http://protectourcareil.org/](http://protectourcareil.org/)
  - Sign up to receive POC-IL emails
  - Follow us on social media: facebook.com/ProtectOurCareIL & twitter.com/ProtectILCare
  - Share your healthcare story: [http://www.ilcha.org/share](http://www.ilcha.org/share)