

# South Carolina



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as “food stamps”) is a powerful tool for ending hunger in the United States. SNAP benefits are provided on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card and can only be used to purchase food items from grocery stores, farmers’ markets and other food retailers.

These benefits help low-income families put enough food on the table and reach the state’s most vulnerable residents, including children, seniors and people with disabilities. Here is a look at the impact this program has in South Carolina.

## SOUTH CAROLINA SNAP: BY THE NUMBERS



725,000

PEOPLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA RELY ON SNAP



366,000

ARE KIDS



63%

OF SNAP RECIPIENTS ARE KIDS, THE ELDERLY OR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

## RESOURCES

- USDA, [Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2015](#).
- USDA, [2016 SNAP Retailer Management Year End Summary](#).
- U.S. Census Bureau, [American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2011-2015](#).
- USDA Economic Research Service, [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) Data System Documentation](#).
- Voice of the People/University of Maryland survey, [Americans On SNAP, 2017](#).
- Cooking Matters [participant survey](#), 2016.

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Learn More: <http://bit.ly/SNAP101>

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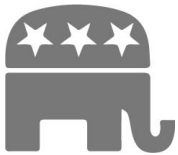
## SNAP BENEFITS ARE LOW



**\$1.36**

PER PERSON PER MEAL IN  
SOUTH CAROLINA

IN A NATIONAL SURVEY, **8 IN 10 AMERICANS**  
FAVOR RAISING SNAP BENEFITS, INCLUDING  
MAJORITIES IN BOTH PARTIES.



**66%**

REPUBLICAN

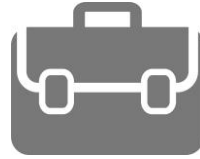
&



**93%**

DEMOCRAT

## SNAP SUPPORTS WORKING FAMILIES



**76%**

PERCENT OF SNAP  
HOUSEHOLDS IN SOUTH  
CAROLINA THAT ARE WORKING  
OR HAVE WORKED  
WITHIN THE PAST YEAR



**10 MONTHS**

AVERAGE AMOUNT  
OF TIME FAMILIES  
SPEND ON SNAP



**30,000**

NUMBER OF SOUTH  
CAROLINA FAMILIES THAT  
SNAP KEPT OUT OF  
POVERTY IN 2015

## SNAP PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA'S ECONOMY

Households on SNAP spend their benefits quickly, which effectively boosts the local economy. Benefits can be used at local retailers and farmers markets, which in turn supports local business and agriculture.



**5,385**

AUTHORIZED SNAP  
RETAIL LOCATIONS  
IN SOUTH CAROLINA



**\$1.2 BILLION**

SNAP DOLLARS PUMPED  
INTO SOUTH CAROLINA'S  
ECONOMY IN 2016

## NUTRITION EDUCATION

SNAP-Ed is the nutrition education and obesity prevention component of SNAP. SNAP-Ed funding supports programs that equips low-income Americans with the skills they need to make healthy food choices on a budget through cooking classes, grocery store tours and educational materials.

Research shows that the skills learned through SNAP Ed can have a significant impact on the number of days families face hunger during the month. It also leads to healthier food choices; two thirds of families participating in nutrition education are more likely to eat more fruits and vegetables and read ingredient lists to find whole-grain options.

Although this funding helps families more effectively stretch their food budgets and create healthier eating habits, **less than 1%** of the SNAP budget goes to nutrition education. Learn More at <http://bit.ly/SNAPED>.



**68%**

PERCENT OF PEOPLE REPORT  
EATING MORE FRUITS &  
VEGETABLES AFTER TAKING  
NUTRITION EDUCATION COURSES