

USDA Proposes More Cuts to SNAP Benefits

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has [proposed](#) yet another rule change that would cut Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for seniors and families. The proposed rule, which is currently open for public comment, would standardize and cap Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) calculations nationwide rather than allow states to continue to adjust the SUA to accommodate for differences in utility costs and rates. If implemented, the proposed rule would cut \$4.5 billion from SNAP by USDA's own estimates and make it harder for low-income seniors, especially the 4.8 million who receive SNAP benefits, to meet their basic needs.

Tell the USDA that you oppose this rule because it will harm the health and well-being of seniors and their families. The Coalition on Human Needs has a [comment form for individuals](#). Organizations can submit comments at [regulations.gov](#) by December 2, 2019.

[Act Now](#) to Say #HandsOffSNAP

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. For many of us, that means spending time with family over a delicious meal. But for millions of people, access to basic, year-round nutritious meals is at risk!

Currently, the utility costs that families and individuals have are taken into consideration when their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are calculated. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed a rule that would change that calculation to cut benefits. **It would force people with disabilities and their families to choose between buying food or other necessities, such as housing, utilities, and medical expenses.**

Why Does SNAP Matter to People With Disabilities?

SNAP plays a key role in reducing hunger and helping people with disabilities to maximize their health and participate in our communities. We know that all too often food insecurity and disability go together. The proposed rule would:

- Change the deduction for utility payments and cut benefits for people with high utility costs.
- Cut benefits for 19 percent of people on SNAP.
- Cause 8,000 people to lose SNAP benefits entirely.

The proposed rule would cut **\$4.5 billion** in SNAP benefits and disproportionately impact people with disabilities.

27,566 Letters Sent

Only 23,634 more until our goal of 51,200

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You may receive updates from *Coalition On Human Needs, Corporate Accountability, CREDO Action, Daily Kos, Economic Policy Institute, Presente.org, Progress America, ROC United, and PeopleGreater*, the sponsors of this letter campaign.

[Edit Subscription Preferences](#)**SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT: TELL TRUMP'S USDA, DON'T CUT SNAP**

Far too many Americans struggle with poverty, food insecurity, a poor diet and obesity. Research shows SNAP alleviates these problems and improves the health and well-being of millions of people across our country.

Improving SNAP benefits would further increase the effectiveness of this program. **But the Trump administration wants to do exactly the opposite. Through a new rule change, the USDA is seeking to slice \$4.5 billion in funds from SNAP over 5 years.**

Each state must be allowed to account for the costs of utilities as they calculate SNAP benefits. This new USDA rule proposal, however, unfairly standardizes and caps Standard Utility Allowance calculations across the country based on inadequate survey data—resulting in dramatic cuts to food stamps.

Let's unite our voices and send the USDA a strong message: We will not allow SNAP to be cut. Tell Sec. Perdue: This rule change would exacerbate the struggles of millions of low-income Americans. The proposed rule is flawed and must be withdrawn.

The details:

*Under current law, SNAP takes into account the utility expenses of each SNAP household. States adjust household benefits based on a state-specific Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) calculated by the state and approved by USDA. The current policy allows variances in SUAs to accommodate for differences in utility costs and rates, and allows states flexibility in how they calculate those costs. **The Trump administration's proposed rule would standardize and cap SUA calculations across the country based on inadequate survey data—substantially cutting essential benefits for 7 million Americans in the process.***

Right now, there is a public comment period on this proposed rule change. We must make our voices heard. Click "start writing" to submit your official comment and tell Sec. Perdue and the USDA that we cannot take critical food assistance away from low-income children and families.