

SNAP Provisions in Budget Reconciliation Law Will Increase Hunger in New York

The recently passed budget reconciliation bill will have a harmful impact on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the nearly three million New Yorkers who rely on it to put food on the table. The law shifts significant costs to New York’s state budget, eliminates eligibility for many lawfully present immigrants, expands harsh work reporting requirements, and reduces benefit amounts. These changes represent a profound reduction in federal support for food security, threatening the sustainability of our largest and most effective anti-hunger program. More details about the impact of these SNAP provisions in New York are below.

Impacts on SNAP in New York	Effective
Shifts an estimated \$1.2 billion in SNAP benefit costs each year to New York’s state budget, potentially forcing cuts to SNAP or other critical state investments.	October 2027, 2028, or 2029, depending on the state’s SNAP error rate.
Cuts federal funding for SNAP administration in half , resulting in \$200 million in additional costs to the state and counties each year.	October 2026
Ends SNAP eligibility for more than 40,000 refugees, asylees, and other immigrants lawfully residing in New York. SNAP eligibility for immigrants was already strict; undocumented immigrants are not eligible for SNAP, and many lawfully present immigrants must wait five years before applying. The bill further restricts eligibility to only U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, Cuban and Haitian entrants, and COFA citizens.	Pending USDA/OTDA guidance
Severely limits waivers that allowed states—including New York—to waive harsh work reporting requirements in areas with insufficient jobs. Without a waiver, all SNAP recipients considered “able-bodied adults without dependents” (ABAWD) can only receive SNAP for three months in a three-year period unless they document sufficient work hours. Previously, states could request temporary waivers based on a range of metrics showing insufficient jobs; the bill limits these waivers to areas with an unemployment rate over ten percent.	Pending USDA/OTDA guidance

Impacts on SNAP in New York	Effective
Ends ABAWD exemptions to work reporting requirements for veterans, people experiencing homelessness, and youth aging out of foster care , putting these vulnerable individuals at risk of losing their SNAP benefits.	Pending USDA/OTDA guidance
Expands ABAWD work reporting requirements to <u>125,000</u> older adults and <u>80,000</u> adults with school-age children , putting more than <u>300,000</u> additional New Yorkers at risk of losing some or all of their household's SNAP benefits.	Pending USDA/OTDA guidance
Reduces benefit amounts by restricting updates to the Thrifty Food Plan , the basis of SNAP benefit calculations, and limiting utility deductions used in a household's SNAP budget.	Thrifty Food Plan restrictions in effect; utility deductions pending USDA/OTDA guidance
Cuts federal funding for SNAP outreach and application assistance in half , jeopardizing the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program , New York's network of SNAP assistors managed by Hunger Solutions New York, and other targeted SNAP outreach contracts. Unless additional funds are included in the FY2027 state budget to fill the gap, in-person and remote SNAP assistance will be reduced while New Yorkers and state and county agencies are navigating unprecedented changes to the program.	October 2026