

Protect New Yorkers from SNAP Skimming



New York has been the hardest-hit state in the nation when it comes to SNAP skimming. To protect families from benefit theft, the FY27 New York State Budget must include funding to transition to more secure, chip-enabled EBT cards.

→ **EBT skimming is a form of theft.**

Thieves steal card information using hidden devices on point-of-sale systems. When a family tries to use their SNAP benefits, they discover the funds they need to buy food have been stolen, through no fault of their own.

The federal government provided reimbursement for victims of skimming from 2023-2024. During this two-year time period:

- ***More than 151,000 New York families submitted claims***
- ***More than \$50 million in stolen SNAP benefits were replaced***

Today, families are left without recourse, even as skimming persists. States are stepping up to fill the gap. Since rolling out chip-and-tap enabled EBT cards, California has reported an **83% reduction in food and cash benefits theft**. In the absence of federal funding to reimburse victims of SNAP skimming, our state must do everything in its power to help prevent skimming at its source.

→ **EBT chip cards help prevent skimming and protect benefits.**

Transitioning to chip-enabled EBT cards can help:

- Ensure that New Yorkers can put food on the table for themselves and their families
- Significantly reduce the prevalence of benefits theft, saving families money and keeping more federal dollars in our state's economy
- Alleviate demand at food banks, pantries, and emergency food providers

→ **The FY27 New York State Budget must include funding to transition to more secure, chip-enabled EBT cards.**

Governor Hochul championed this investment in the State of the State and Executive Budget. We urge lawmakers to ensure it remains intact in the final budget. The security of New Yorkers' SNAP benefits depend on it.