



Save Our SNAP: **101 on H.R.1 Program Changes in Illinois**

Welcome & Housekeeping

- Overview of the Illinois Commission to End Hunger
- Why SNAP Matters
- H.R. 1 Changes to SNAP
 1. Shifting Costs to States
 2. Expanded SNAP Work Requirements
 3. Restricted Immigrant Eligibility
- Opportunities to Take Action!
- Resources
- Q&A



Please note that all information shared in today's webinar is accurate as of November 21, 2025. Illinois is continuing to implement changes per guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS), and it is an evolving situation.

Who We Are

ILLINOIS COMMISSION TO END HUNGER

The Illinois Commission to End Hunger is a public-private partnership composed of stakeholders from across the state dedicated to the belief that no one in Illinois should ever face hunger.



Speakers



**GREATER
CHICAGO**
- FOOD -
DEPOSITORY.

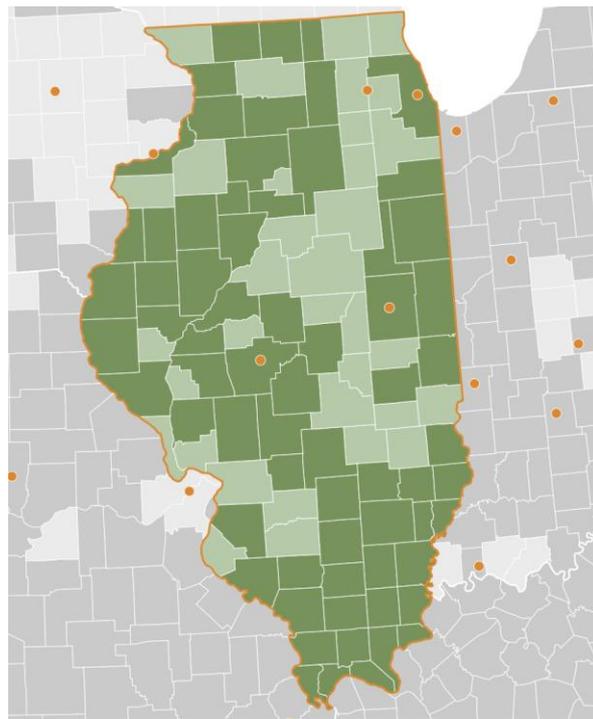


- **Nolan Downey**, *Greater Chicago Food Depository & Illinois Commission to End Hunger*
- **Melissa Cundari**, *Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)*

Hunger in Illinois

- Feeding America estimates **1 in 8 people** in Illinois faces hunger and experiences food insecurity.
- Illinois households would need roughly \$1.12B added to their food budget to afford adequate food.

Overall Food Insecurity Rate



Why SNAP Matters

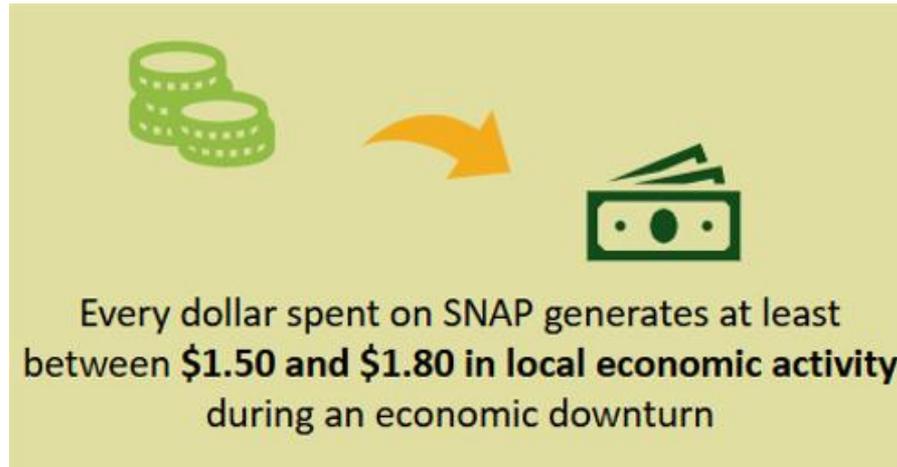
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- **SNAP eligibility is determined by the following factors:**
 - Household size & composition
 - Income
 - Illinois residency
 - Citizenship/immigration status
 - Deductions
- **Even with changes on the horizon, SNAP benefits are still available and is an important resource.**

SNAP Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income Standards	
	No Older Adult (60+) or Disabled Person in the Household	With Older Adult (60+) or Disabled Person in the Household
1 Person	\$2,152	\$2,608
2 Persons	\$2,909	\$3,525
3 Persons	\$3,665	\$4,441
4 Persons	\$4,421	\$5,358

Why SNAP Matters

- Increases food access
- Boosts the local economy
- Protects families from hardship
- Supports healthy eating and improved health



Why SNAP Matters



\$4.7B in SNAP benefits issued annually to **~1.9 million** Illinoisians, including:

- Approx. 650,000 children
- 44,217 veterans
- Approx. 1 million households
 - **37%** of SNAP households have older adults
 - **45%** of SNAP households have children
 - **44%** of SNAP households have a person with a disability

H.R. 1 – One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- Largest cuts to SNAP and Medicaid in history – **removing food access and health care from millions of people.**
- **Need for food assistance will surge.** Food Banks and pantries are not currently equipped to fill the gap.
- Loss of SNAP benefits will impact local economies everywhere: **less money spent at grocery stores, fewer jobs, less food produced.**

**CONGRESS VOTES
TO CUT ALMOST
\$200 BILLION
FROM SNAP FOOD
ASSISTANCE**

H.R. 1 – One Big Beautiful Bill Act



Increases State
Cost Requirements
to Unprecedented
Levels



Cuts SNAP By
Preventing Future
Updates to Benefit
Amounts



Vastly Expands
Failed Work
Requirements
(Time-Limited
SNAP Benefits)



Narrows State
Option to Calculate
Utility Deductions



Bars SNAP
Benefits for Many
Legally Present
Immigrants



Eliminates SNAP
Nutrition Education

Illinois Impact

- All **1.9M** IL residents on SNAP (including nearly **650,000** children) will see the true value of their benefits decrease overtime
- **450,000** SNAP recipients at risk of losing benefits due to burdensome work requirements
- **16,000** lawfully present immigrants, including refugees, asylees, immigrant survivors of DV, labor and sex trafficking (and more), are at risklose access
- Maintaining SNAP could cost the state **\$800M** more per year.

Change 1 – Shifting Costs to States

- Beginning in October 2027, states will be required to cover a significant portion of SNAP benefits.
- These new rules would require **Illinois to pay up to \$800 million** per year to keep SNAP available for those that need it.



Change 1 – Shifting Costs to States

Benefit Costs

- **Historically:** 100% Federally Funded since 1963
- **Change:** Starting in FFY2028 (Oct. 1, 2027), requires states to pay a portion of SNAP benefits based on payment error rates:
 - < 6% error rate = 0%
 - 6-8% error rate = 5%
 - 8-10% error rate = 10%
 - **10% error rate or higher* = 15%**
- **Example – Illinois Impact:**
 - FFY24 IL had an error rate of **11.56%**
 - IDHS estimates this to cost **\$705 million/year**

**13.33% error rate or higher in FFY2025 and FFY2026 delays implementation to FFY2029 or FFY2030, respectively.*

Administrative Costs

- **Historically:** Split 50-50 between state and federal
- **Change:** Starting FFY2027 (Oct. 1, 2026), all states would be responsible for 75% of costs.
- **Example – Illinois Impact:** IDHS estimates this to cost an additional **\$80 million/year** plus **\$20 million/year** to implement the new changes.

= more than \$800 million/year

Policy Changes – Mitigating Errors

Simplified Reporting

- Beginning October 23, 2025, for all households (except older adults with 24-month cert.)
- Households generally must only report when their income (before taxes) goes above the SNAP income limit for their household size.

6-month certification periods

- Households certified before October 23, 2025, will still have a 12-month certification period, with a mid-point report at 6-months.
- Households certified after October 23, 2025, will have to complete a full redetermination every 6-months, with NO mid-point report.
- Interviews will occur at initial application, the first 6-month redetermination, and then every 12 months after that.
- Older adult households with expanded 24-month certification periods are NOT impacted.

Policy Changes – Mitigating Errors

Verifying shelter costs

- Previously, IDHS did not require proof of housing / shelter expenses.
- Beginning October 23, 2025, households will now be required to submit proof of their housing / shelter expenses at initial application and redetermination. (NOT utilities!)
- An application will NOT be denied for failure to verify. Instead shelter expenses will be excluded from budgeting until verified.

Update out of pocket medical costs

- At initial application and redetermination, IDHS will ask recipients to verify any out-of-pocket medical costs.
- Previously IDHS would assume these costs stayed consistent and would not ask for ongoing verification.

Change #2 – Expanded SNAP Work Requirements

WHAT is the SNAP Work Requirement?

- Some SNAP recipients must work, volunteer, or participate in an employment or training program for **80 hours a month**.
- Recipients who do not meet the work requirement or qualify for an exemption only get **3 months of SNAP in a fixed 3-year period**.
- These recipients can get SNAP benefits again during the 3-year period if they **become exempt or start meeting the work requirement**.

Change #2 – Expanded SNAP Work Requirements

SNAP recipients considered, **able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs)** must meet the work requirement unless they are exempt.

Who is an ABAWD?

BEFORE H.R. 1

- Adults aged **18-54**
- No dependents **under 18**
- **Exceptions** for people experiencing homelessness, veterans, & former foster youth (18-24)

States can waive the requirement if unemployment over 10% **OR** insufficient jobs. Illinois meets this threshold.



AFTER H.R. 1

- Adults aged **18-64**
- No dependents **under 14**
- **Limited exception pathways**

States can waive the requirement **ONLY** if unemployment over 10%. No county in Illinois *currently* meets this threshold.

Who is Exempt from Work Requirements?

A person is exempt from the SNAP Work Requirement if they are:

- under age 18 or 65 years of age or older; or
- physical or mental limitations that impact their ability to work, including experiencing chronic homelessness, domestic violence, and/or other barriers; or
- pregnant; or
- living in a SNAP household (purchase and prepare) with a child under age 14, even if the child is ineligible for SNAP; or
- Individuals who are an Alaskan Native, American Indian, American Urban Indian, or California Indian (as defined in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act); or
- residing in a waived (exempt) county; or
- Caring for a child under age 6 or a person who needs help caring for themselves; or
- Going to school, college, or training program at least half time; or
- Meeting the work rules for TANF; or
- Receiving unemployment benefits or applied for unemployment benefits; or
- Participating regularly in alcohol or drug treatment program; or
- Working at least 30 hours a week or earning at least \$217.50 (federal minimum wage \$7.25 multiplied by 30 hours) a week. The person can be employed or self-employed.

Impact of Work Requirements

Expanded ABAWD Population & Illinoisans at Risk

- The expanded definition increases Illinois' ABAWD population from **~189,000** to **~446,000**
- Based on historical trends, **~340,000 ABAWDs** are at risk of losing SNAP benefits.
- Of those at risk, **45%** are likely to lose eligibility after the 3-month time limit.
- Approximately **23,000 Illinoisans** who are unhoused, veterans, or youth aging out of foster care will lose their current exemptions—facing elevated food insecurity risk.

Economic Ripple Effect

- If at-risk ABAWDs (single-person households receiving ~\$208/month) lost benefits, Illinois communities could experience an estimated \$110 million in lost economic activity each month.

Implementing Work Requirements

When does Work Requirement begin?

- Expanded SNAP Work Requirement for nearly **450,000 ABAWDs** goes into effect **February 1, 2026**, pending further court action.
- Estimated **153,000 people** could lose benefits on **May 1, 2026**, after the third countable month.

What to do now?

- Local offices will screen for exemptions before applying the time limit
- Impacted customers will be informed about the change and how they can maintain eligibility

If you meet an exemption, or think you may meet an exception, contact IDHS NOW!!!!!!



Implementing Work Requirements

- 1. Educate and engage community partners** on all exemption pathways (e.g., physical and mental barriers to work) and ways to meet with work requirement through a comprehensive communications and outreach plan and trainings for community partners
- 2. Expand our voluntary SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program** to help ABAWDs meet the work requirement and ensure statewide coverage. SNAP E&T will remain voluntary.
- 3. Leverage our existing workforce system** (outside of SNAP E&T) and provider network to help ABAWDs meet the work requirement.



Efforts to support ABAWDs with the return of the time limit will be leveraged as a foundation for implementing Medicaid work requirements.

Change #2 – Expanded SNAP Work Requirements



Complete the ABE SNAP Work Requirements screener to determine if you may need to meet work requirements



Use the ABE Manage My Case portal to manage your SNAP, Medical and Cash benefits online: abe.illinois.gov



Call the IL Department of Human Services Line at 1-800-843-6154 or visit your local DHS office



Anyone that may be eligible for an exemption should provide an update to IDHS as soon as possible.

Change #3 – Restricted Immigrant Eligibility

Starting **December 1, 2025**, eligibility changes will **severely limit SNAP** access for approximately **16,000** legally present humanitarian immigrants.

Status	Eligible for SNAP <u>BEFORE</u> the bill	Eligible for SNAP <u>AFTER</u> the bill
Legal Permanent Resident (subject to the 5-year bar)	Yes	Yes
Cuban / Haitian entrant	Yes	Yes
Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrant	Yes	Yes
Refugee	Yes	NO
Asylee	Yes	NO**
T-visa holder	Yes	NO**
Parolee > 1 year	Yes	NO
VAWA self-petitioner	Yes	NO

***Certain statuses may still be eligible for state-funded food assistance; contact benefits enroller to learn more.*

Implementing Immigrant Eligibility Changes

When do immigrant eligibility restrictions begin?

- **New cases** – As of December 1, newly ineligible immigrants will be denied.
- **Active cases** – Newly ineligible immigrants will lose eligibility at their next redetermination (REDE)

Mixed-status households

- Only those immigrants with statuses that are newly ineligible will be removed from the household. Household members who are U.S. citizens or those with statuses that maintain eligibility can continue to receive SNAP.

Example – A household containing an adult asylee and a U.S. citizen child was certified in May 2025. When their REDE comes up in May 2026, the adult asylee will be removed from the household and eligibility and benefit amount will be recalculated for the U.S. citizen child.

“Five-year bar” – Green card holders (LPRs) typically have to wait 5-years to receive federal public benefits, with exceptions.

Review of Changes



Increases the amount that the State is required to pay to administer the program



Expands work requirements



Removes SNAP benefits for many legally present immigrants

Opportunities to Take Action!

Community partners can help minimize customers losing SNAP benefits.



Help **communicate SNAP changes** to customers



Help customers **navigate changes to eligibility** requirements



Help **test new wording in application or other materials** to ensure it's easy to understand



Help IDHS **learn more about challenges** customers are facing



Help customers **understand changes to application and work** requirements

Need Help?

- Go online to the Illinois Application for Benefits Eligibility (ABE) at ABE.Illinois.gov. Use Manage My Case to access your benefits, check your redetermination due date, and verify your mailing address
- Visit your local DHS Office / Family Community Resource Center (FCRC) aka "one-stop" centers for cash & medical assistance, food stamps, and job services. See [IDHS: Office Locator](#) to find the closest one
- Call the IDHS Help Line at 1-833-2-FIND-HELP (1-833-234-6343)
- Identify your area's local SNAP Outreach Plan partner.

More Information

Visit the following resource centers online:

- IDHS SNAP Federal Impact Center - <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/?item=174038>
- We Got You Illinois - <https://wegotyouillinois.org/>
- Illinois Commission to End Hunger - <https://www.endhungerillinois.org/>

Or sign up for:

- Benefits Access Group Monthly Meeting by emailing Lynette.mackenzie2@illinois.gov
- Illinois Anti-Hunger Advocates Monthly Meeting - <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctdumpqz0oGd1O2zW6K-2JUUbQ8r9tUcY9T#/registration>

More Information

REGISTER for Save Our SNAP: Deep Dive Series on Pending Changes in Illinois

For individuals and organizations that support Illinois neighbors to enroll in and navigate the program, the commission will also be hosting a webinar series in early 2026 to dive deeper into the technical policy changes and implementation. This series is ideal for benefit enrollers/navigators, social service providers, and policy experts.

- Friday, December 12th from 11am-noon CT
- Tuesday, January 13th from 1-2 pm CT
- Tuesday, February 10th from 1-2 pm CT

Register --> https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8517634239421/WN_iagh1CRTR8q3Jk9hJOJbnQ

Q & A