



Proposed Federal Budget Would Slash SNAP, Threatening Food Access for 1 in 10 Coloradans

DENVER (May 20, 2025) — As part of today’s national SNAP Day of Action, Colorado anti-hunger groups are sounding the alarm on the proposed federal budget reconciliation bill that would devastate the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—putting vital food assistance out of reach for hundreds of thousands of Coloradans and millions of Americans nationwide.

The House Agriculture Committee’s proposal includes nearly \$300 billion in cuts to SNAP, a move advocates condemn as both harmful and deeply short-sighted.

“Congress is choosing tax cuts for the wealthy at the expense of basic needs,” said Dayana Leyva, policy manager at Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger. “SNAP is one of the most effective anti-hunger tools we have. Gutting it is a choice—and it comes with a price: more hunger, poorer health, and frayed communities across Colorado.”

What’s at Stake for Colorado

SNAP currently helps more than **600,000 Coloradans** put food on the table each month. One in ten residents relies on this critical support. The proposed changes would:

- **Impose Massive Costs on States:** Colorado would be required to shoulder up to **\$324 million annually** in new benefit costs—an unprecedented and unsustainable burden on the state’s budget that could lead to hundreds of thousands of Coloradans in need losing some or all of their SNAP benefits.
- **Slash Benefits for all SNAP Recipients:** By freezing benefit calculations and stripping deductions like utility and internet costs, already low SNAP allotments would fall further behind the cost of groceries—especially in a high-cost state like Colorado.
- **Make it Harder for Many to Access Help:** Punitive work requirements would be expanded to include older adults age 55-64, families with kids age 7 and above, and more rural Coloradans—increasing red tape and bureaucracy and threatening critical benefits.
- **Exclude Immigrants and Refugees:** Thousands of legally present immigrants, including refugees, would be newly barred from receiving SNAP.
- **End a Highly Effective Nutrition Education Program:** The bill eliminates SNAP-Ed, which connects low-income communities across the state to nutrition education and resources.
- **Cut Funding for Colorado Counties:** By changing the federal match for SNAP administrative costs from 50:50 to 75:25, county human services offices would face tens of millions of dollars in funding losses.

- **Hurt Our Economy:** SNAP not only supports Colorado families, but also protects jobs and strengthens our economy. Cuts to SNAP and related programs could cost our state up to 14,000 jobs and shrink our GDP by \$1.6 billion.

“SNAP-Ed is a proven, cost-effective program that reaches thousands of Coloradans every year, providing hands-on nutrition education and practical strategies to help families stretch their food dollars and make healthier choices,” said Rakia Ranney, director of nutrition education at Nourish Colorado. “Over 75% of participants report increased confidence in their ability to feed their families healthy meals on a budget, and more than 80% of class participants say they’re eating more fruits and vegetables as a result of nutrition education. Supporting SNAP-Ed is a smart, results-driven investment in Colorado’s health and economic future.”

The proposed cost shifts to the state for administrative and benefit costs would be unprecedented and would end SNAP as we know it. SNAP benefits have always been 100% federally funded since the program’s creation in 1977, a crucial provision that ensures all who are eligible can receive benefits and that the program can respond to increased need during recessions.

Cuts to SNAP would have far-reaching impacts beyond increasing hunger. SNAP is also a proven health intervention. Participants experience better health outcomes and lower medical costs. Adults who receive SNAP spend an average of \$1,400 less per year on health care than similar adults without benefits. Cutting this program will increase food insecurity, economic hardship, and long-term public health costs.

The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger, Hunger Free Colorado, and Nourish Colorado join advocates across the nation in urging Congress to reject these harmful proposals. The federal budget is a reflection of our values—and no budget that increases hunger, burdens states, and abandons the most vulnerable should be allowed to pass.

“This isn’t just about food, it’s about the fabric of our communities,” said Anya Rose, director of public policy at Hunger Free Colorado. “This is about how we respond to need, how we treat our neighbors, and whether we believe in a society that ensures everyone has what they need to live with dignity. These cuts to SNAP would have cruel, wide-ranging, long-lasting effects here in Colorado. Colorado’s families deserve a SNAP program that meets their needs—not one that punishes them for being poor.”

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Hunger Free Colorado, a statewide nonprofit organization, connects people to food resources to meet existing needs and drives policy, systems and social change to end hunger. To learn more about the issue and solutions, visit HungerFreeColorado.org.

Nourish Colorado, a statewide nonprofit organization, strengthens connections with and between farms, ranches, and communities so that all Coloradans have equitable access to fresh, nutritious foods. To learn more about our statewide food access programs and advocacy work, visit NourishColorado.org.

The **Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger** is building a movement for more responsive, equitable, and sustainable food systems. Established in 2019, the statewide nonprofit shifts power to communities by convening partners, supporting local solutions, strengthening resources, and championing bold policy change. Learn more at EndHungerCO.org.