



SNAP SUPPORTS LOCAL ECONOMIES

AND HEALTHY EATING

SNAP benefits promote nutrition security by helping participants purchase healthy food like fresh fruits and vegetables through farmers markets and other outlets. This has tangible benefits for farmers and the local economy.

WHAT IMPACT DOES SNAP HAVE ON THE ECONOMY?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service found that \$1 billion in new SNAP benefits would lead to: An increase of \$1.54 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP); an additional 13,560 jobs, including nearly 500 agricultural jobs in farming, forestry, fishing, and hunting, and; an additional \$32 million in income for the U.S. agriculture industries.¹

SNAP Positively Impacts the Rural Economy

Nationwide, SNAP redemptions improve county-level employment with an increase of 0.4–0.5 jobs per \$10,000 of additional SNAP redemptions. This effect is statistically significant only in non-metro counties. When households in urban counties² redeem their SNAP benefits, it supports the agriculture industry, including employment in both the farming and food processing sectors.³

Farmers Markets Accept SNAP

America's Direct Marketing Farmers and Farmers' Markets supply the country with fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods. The USDA provides online applications and technical assistance, especially for farmers markets applying to be considered SNAP retailers. In 2020, SNAP participants redeemed more than \$33 million in benefits at these retailers.⁴

HOW DOES SNAP INCREASE NUTRITION SECURITY?

Additional programs leverage SNAP to increase nutrition security and promote healthy eating by fostering public/private partnerships and collaborations between farmers, farmers markets, and other retailers. The programs described below are funded through a competitive granting process from the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). The 2018 Farm Bill authorized the program for fiscal years 2019 through 2023 and increased its funding by \$11 million to a total of \$56 million to be appropriated over 5 years.⁵

Double-Up Food Bucks is a nutrition incentive program originally started in Michigan in 2009 and has now spread to 28 states. It provides fruit and vegetable incentives for SNAP participants at farmers markets, grocery stores and other SNAP retailers. Participants in the program receive dollar for dollar matches to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. According to their 2021 Annual Impact Report, 759,000 families and over 5,500 farmers participated, and shoppers spent more than \$20 million at participating sites.⁶

Produce Prescriptions promote healthy eating by healthcare providers writing prescriptions for fresh fruits and vegetables. Patients can fill their prescriptions using their SNAP benefits at on-site markets. This program targets patients who are suffering from or at risk of suffering from diet-related health issues. According to the GusNIP Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Center Impact Findings report, participation in these programs resulted in reductions in food insecurity and increases in fruit and vegetable intake.⁷

¹ Canning, Patrick and Brian Stacy. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Economy: New Estimates of the SNAP Multiplier, ERR-265, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, July 2019

² John Pender, Young Jo, Jessica E. Todd, and Cristina Miller, ERR-263, The Impacts of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Redemptions on County-Level Employment, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, May 2019.

³ Vogel, Stephen, Cristina Miller, and Katherine Ralston. October 2021. Impact of USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) on Rural and Urban Economies in the Aftermath of the Great Recession, ERR-296, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.

⁴ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/redemptions-report-fy-2013-2020>

⁵ <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/hunger-food-security-programs/gus-schumacher-nutrition-incentive-program>

⁶ <https://fairfoodnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/DUFB-Impact-Report-2021-1-1.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.nutritionincentivehub.org/media/fjohmr2n/gusnip-ntae-impact-findings-year-2.pdf>