
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

Counting for Dollars

16 Largest Federal Assistance Programs that Distribute Funds on Basis of Decennial Census-derived Statistics

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

A [report](#) of the Counting for Dollars Project identifies the 16 largest federal financial assistance programs that use Decennial Census-derived data to distribute funds to states and local areas. This fact sheet describes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the nature of its reliance on Census-derived data.

Objective: Improve nutrition of low-income households by ensuring access to nutritious, healthful diets through the provision of nutrition education and nutrition assistance through the issuance of monthly benefits for the purchase of food at authorized retailers.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #: [10.551](#)

Applicant eligibility: SNAP is a Federal program administered by the States. The State agency responsible for Federally aided public assistance programs submits requests for funding to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

Household eligibility: Eligibility is based on household size, income, expenses, assets, citizenship or immigration status, and other factors. A gross income test is based on 130 percent of the poverty line, and the net income (after expenses) test is based on 100 percent of the poverty line. Households with elderly and disabled members need only meet the net income test.

Type of assistance: Direct payments to households. Households receive SNAP benefits for the purchase of food at authorized retailers and use an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card to redeem benefits at authorized retailers.

Household benefits: The amount is determined by household size, expenses, and income.

Primary Census-derived data sources: Per [27 CFR 273.09](#), Poverty Thresholds (Census) and Poverty Guidelines (HHS) are used to determine household eligibility and benefits level. Per [27 CFR 273.24](#), Local Area Unemployment Statistics (BLS) are used to give areas with high unemployment a [waiver](#) on the benefits time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents.

Relation to accuracy of local Decennial Census: Positive

A local Decennial Census miscount would increase the likelihood of a less accurate estimate of local unemployment, which could affect an area's eligibility to receive a waiver.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Obligations – U.S. and States, FY2015**

United States	\$69,489,854,016		
Alabama	\$1,341,906,577	Montana	\$171,413,823
Alaska	\$168,054,411	Nebraska	\$242,092,503
Arizona	\$1,459,584,642	Nevada	\$605,592,527
Arkansas	\$648,769,562	New Hampshire	\$132,497,777
California	\$7,528,039,778	New Jersey	\$1,291,435,885
Colorado	\$771,959,823	New Mexico	\$685,206,629
Connecticut	\$715,334,947	New York	\$5,046,486,639
Delaware	\$228,935,464	North Carolina	\$2,395,550,386
District of Columbia	\$224,104,447	North Dakota	\$77,912,538
Florida	\$5,688,711,691	Ohio	\$2,528,834,777
Georgia	\$2,803,606,880	Oklahoma	\$864,950,565
Hawaii	\$505,466,329	Oregon	\$1,152,976,715
Idaho	\$273,758,132	Pennsylvania	\$2,699,655,059
Illinois	\$3,303,102,831	Rhode Island	\$282,777,163
Indiana	\$1,244,188,231	South Carolina	\$1,208,604,782
Iowa	\$516,608,025	South Dakota	\$148,866,948
Kansas	\$374,432,741	Tennessee	\$1,884,708,816
Kentucky	\$1,112,381,122	Texas	\$5,265,414,124
Louisiana	\$1,298,445,656	Utah	\$313,810,557
Maine	\$282,015,650	Vermont	\$124,409,407
Maryland	\$1,149,657,589	Virginia	\$1,230,788,073
Massachusetts	\$1,202,312,621	Washington	\$1,527,741,099
Michigan	\$2,369,233,695	West Virginia	\$497,268,953
Minnesota	\$627,557,916	Wisconsin	\$1,051,153,941
Mississippi	\$916,551,543	Wyoming	\$46,448,470
Missouri	\$1,258,535,557		

Source: USASpending.gov

Prepared by Andrew Reamer, Research Professor, GWIPP, with data provided by Sean Moulton, Open Government Program Manager, Project on Government Oversight

June 13, 2017