

# SNAP INCENTIVES

SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMIES AND LOCAL HEALTH EFFORTS



American Heart Association.

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# SNAP Incentives Support Local Economies & Local Health Efforts

Do you know if your local decision makers support Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) incentives for your community? SNAP incentive programs help the 44 million people in the U.S. who participate in SNAP to buy nutritious produce. These incentives promote healthy communities, and also act as an economic engine for the state and local economy. Farmers, grocery store owners, farmer's market vendors and small retail stores all reap the benefit from higher sales of produce. To help spur economic growth and reduce health risks in our community, it's time to advocate for a strong SNAP incentives program in your community.

Here are some of the benefits of SNAP incentives programs:

- SNAP incentive programs benefit some of the most vulnerable populations in our country, reducing food insecurity. Nearly two-thirds of all SNAP participants are children, elderly, and people with disabilities.<sup>1</sup>
- SNAP incentive programs help families stretch their food dollars and buy healthier options, which means that children are taught healthy behaviors, establishing lifelong habits that will support their overall health and wellness.<sup>2</sup>
- SNAP incentives ensure that SNAP participants have greater access to nutritious foods and helps to encourage them to purchase more fruits and vegetables. Without SNAP incentives, thousands of families would not be able to afford fruits and vegetables for their kids.
- SNAP incentives can increase spending on fruits and vegetables in grocery stores, which generates economic growth. Every \$5 spent using SNAP generates as much as \$9 in economic activity.<sup>3</sup>
- SNAP incentives have had a direct impact on revenues for local merchants, especially farmers. According to the USDA's Economic Research Service, each \$1 billion of retail generated by SNAP creates \$340 million in farm production, \$110 million in farm value-added, and 3,300 farm jobs.<sup>4</sup>
- In several studies, incentives directed at low-income populations are associated with expanded physical access to healthy foods.<sup>5,6</sup>

You have the power to make these impacts a reality in your community. From low-income families to local business owners, a SNAP incentive program can change the lives of many. Urge your decision makers to implement incentives for SNAP participants living in your area. If you're not sure where to begin, check out our SNAP incentives toolkit to learn how to get started.

Visit <https://snapincentives.voicesforhealthykids.org/> to learn more.



1. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/characteristics-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-households-fiscal-year-2016>
2. Hilary Hoynes, Diane Schanzenbach, Douglas Almond, "Long-Run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net," *American Economic Review* 106, no. 4 (2016): 903-34.
3. [https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/44748/7996\\_err103\\_1\\_.pdf?v=41056](https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/44748/7996_err103_1_.pdf?v=41056)
4. <https://www.snapttohealth.org/snap/the-real-benefits-of-the-snap-program/>
5. Mabli J, Ohls J, Dragoset L, Castner L, Santos B. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. Measuring the Effect of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation on Food Security. August 2013. <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/Measuring2013.pdf>.
6. Mark Nord, "How much does the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program alleviate food insecurity? Evidence from recent programme leavers," *Public Health Nutrition* 15, no. 5 (2012): 811-7.

