

The Trump Administration Is Trying to Take Food Away from Working Families

USDA proposed a rule change that would deny SNAP to working families. It would hurt families with gross income above 130% FPL, regardless of net income after shelter or child care costs. It may also hurt some households with low assets.

Current Rules = \$232 SNAP



 **Gross Income/month** **\$2,700**

 **FICA, Taxes, Transport** **\$500**

 **Rent** **\$1,400**

 **Childcare** **\$500**

 **Utilities** **\$150**

 **Phone** **\$50**

 **Diapers, Clothing** **\$50**

 **Remaining Income** **\$50**

 **SNAP** **\$232**



SNAP = Free School Meals

Proposed rule = NO SNAP



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 **Diapers, Clothing** **\$50**

 **Remaining Income: Must cover all food for the month and reduced price school meals.** **\$50**

February 26, 2020

More Information

- *Income:* 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is \$2,252/mo. A single parent of 2 working about 40 hours/week - at \$15.50/hour - earns about \$2,700/mo. The family would likely lose SNAP under USDA's proposed rule.
- *Shelter:* The average fair market rent for a 1 bedroom apartment in MA is \$1,425/mo - \$1,758/mo for a 2 bedroom. See: [Reports.nlihc.org/oor/massachusetts](https://reports.nlihc.org/oor/massachusetts)
- *Child care:* MA is the 2nd most expensive state in the country when it comes to infant care costs, at \$17,062/year. See: [EPI.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/MA](https://epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/MA)

The proposed rule would create a benefit cliff for families who earn more than 130% FPL. It would also prevent families, seniors, and persons with disabilities from maintaining modest savings without losing SNAP. Imposing an asset test would be a huge administrative burden on both low income households and state agencies administering SNAP.

(SNAP households with seniors and persons with severe disabilities are not subject to the gross income test.)

The Harm to Massachusetts

DTA approximates*:

- 50,000 households (100,000 individuals) would lose all SNAP - about 10% of current caseload.
- \$124 million/year loss of federal SNAP
- Loss of automatic free meal status for approx. 8,000 children. Note that families between 130%-175% FPL must pay co-pay for school meals.

*SNAP impact on caseload and costs from DTA's 9/23/19 public comments with USDA on the proposed rule.

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