

# 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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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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