

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's most important anti-hunger program.

### Who Does SNAP Reach?

In Fiscal Year 2014, it reached:

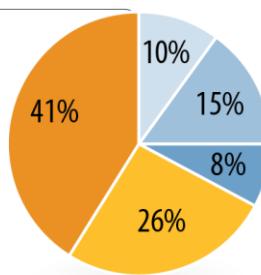
- **125,000** Montana residents, or **12%** of the state population (**1 in 8**)
- **46,536,000** participants in the United States, or **15%** of the total population (**1 in 7 people**)

<b>MONTANA</b>	more than <b>69%</b> of all SNAP participants are in families with children	almost <b>25%</b> of all SNAP participants are in families with elderly or disabled members	almost <b>52%</b> of all SNAP participants are in working families
<b>NATIONALLY</b>	almost <b>70%</b> of all SNAP participants are in families with children	almost <b>29%</b> of all SNAP participants are in families with elderly or disabled members	more than <b>42%</b> of all SNAP participants are in working families

Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, FY 2013

**The majority of SNAP recipients in Montana are children, elderly, or disabled**

- Children
- Adults living with children
- Elderly
- Nondisabled, non-elderly adults not living with children
- Disabled adults



**In Montana many households still struggle to put food on the table:**

- **11.8%** of households were “food insecure,” or struggled to afford a nutritionally adequate diet, in 2011-2013.
- **4.2%** of the population was unemployed in December 2014.
- In 2013, average income in Montana was **4.0% below** the 2007 level.
- **16.5%** of the population lived below the poverty line in 2013.
- **21.0%** of children lived below the poverty line in 2013.
- **9.2%** of elderly lived below the poverty line in 2013.

Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, FY 2013

**SNAP reaches needy populations:** **75%** of eligible individuals participated in SNAP in Montana in 2012. In Montana in FY 2013, **81%** of households receiving SNAP had income below the poverty line (about \$23,850 for a family of four in 2014), and **36%** of households were in deep poverty, with income below 50% of the poverty line.

SNAP kept **17,000** people out of poverty from 2009-2012.

## What Benefits Do SNAP Recipients Receive?

SNAP targets benefits according to need. Very poor households receive more SNAP benefits than households closer to the poverty line since they need more help affording an adequate diet.

Households receive SNAP benefits on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which can be used only to purchase food at one of the 252,900 authorized retail locations around the country, including 800 in Montana.



Average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member:

October 2013

November 2013-September 2014

\$127\*

\$117

Average monthly SNAP benefit per person per meal:

\$1.41\*

\$1.30

\*This amount includes the temporary boost in benefits provided by the economic recovery legislation, which expired in November 2013.

### Average Monthly SNAP Benefit By Demographic Group, FY 2013, Montana

All households

\$265

Households with children

\$416

Working households

\$312

Households with seniors

\$125

Households with non-elderly disabled individuals

\$173

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Research and Analysis, "Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2013"

Note: These amounts also include the temporary boost from the Recovery Act. In FY 2014, benefits will be lower by an average of \$8-10 per person.

## How Does SNAP Benefit the Economy?

Moody's Analytics estimates that in a weak economy, \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in economic activity.

SNAP benefits pumped about **\$176 million** into Montana's economy in 2014.



For more information on the SNAP program, including Montana-specific information, please see:

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Chart Book: <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3744>

USDA SNAP data: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/snapmain.htm>

MT state SNAP program: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/snap/index.shtml>

**Note:** In addition to SNAP, in FY 2014, an average of about 3,100 individuals received benefits through the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), which is a federal program that provides commodity foods to low-income households, including the elderly, living on Indian reservations, and to Native American families residing in designated areas near reservations and in the State of Oklahoma.