At Least 500,000 Childless Adults Will Lose SNAP Benefits in 2016

In many parts of the country, childless unemployed adults who can’t find at least a half-time job or a job-training program for 20 hours a week will lose SNAP after three months, regardless of how hard they are looking for work.

The People at Risk Are a Diverse Group

The people at risk of losing SNAP do not fit a particular stereotype.

Gender
Over 40 percent are female

Male 58%
Female 42%

Age
Almost one-third are over age 40

18-29 years old 46%
30-39 years old 23%
40-49 years old 31%

Residence
(for those who have indicated status)
40 percent live in suburban areas

Urban 37%
Rural 23%
Suburban 40%

They Are Extremely Poor

While on SNAP, their average income is just 17% of the poverty line for an individual, or $2,000 on an annual basis. Over 80% have incomes below half the poverty line, or $5,885.

4 out of 5 have income below half the poverty line

0-50% of poverty 16%
51%-130%* 84%

*Less than 1% have incomes above 130 percent of poverty while on SNAP.

They Face a Weak Labor Market

The employment-to-population ratio, a good measure of the actual work force since it isn’t lowered artificially when long-term unemployed workers give up looking for work, plummeted in the Recession and remains far below pre-recession levels.

Employment - Population Ratio

For more information see “More than 500,000 Adults Will Lose SNAP Benefits in 2016 as Waivers Expire” http://www.cbpp.org/research/more-than-500000-adults-will-lose-snap-benefits-in-2016-as-waivers-expire

Note: These statistics are for an average month for adults ages 18-49, without disabilities and children in the household, who are participating in SNAP and not working at least 20 hours a week