Trump Plan Would Cut Food Assistance, Access to School Meals

The President's plan for SNAP (formerly food stamps), including proposals in his 2021 budget plus regulatory actions already underway, would cut SNAP by about a third (\$230 billion) over ten years, radically restructure how food assistance is delivered, and shrink or end benefits for millions of people. The Administration's plan would also curtail access to free and reduced-price school meals.



Cut SNAP and shift part of benefits to food boxes

For about 9 in 10 SNAP participants, the budget would replace a share of their benefits (about 40 percent nationally) with a box of government-bought foods, taking away their food choices and upending SNAP's public-private partnership with food retailers.



Take SNAP away from adults not working at least 20 hours a week

Two proposals (a budget proposal and a regulation slated to take effect in April) would take SNAP away from adults up to age 65 who are temporarily unemployed or working under 20 hours a week.



End benefits for over 3 million people, mostly working families, the elderly, and people with disabilities

A proposed rule would roll back a policy enabling households to get SNAP if they have income or assets slightly above SNAP limits but need help affording an adequate diet. One million children would also lose access to free school meals.



Impose several other SNAP benefit cuts affecting many elderly persons and large families

For example, the budget would end the minimum benefit of \$16 a month, which mostly goes to seniors and people with disabilities.



Curtail students' access to free school meals in high-poverty areas

The budget would make it harder for school districts that serve high concentrations of low-income students to offer free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision.



End state flexibility over factoring utility costs into households' SNAP benefit levels.

Two proposals (in the budget and a proposed rule) dealing with households' utility costs would shrink benefits for many, disproportionately households with members who are elderly or have a disability.

Source: CBPP, "President's 2021 Budget Would Cut Food Assistance for Millions and Radically Restructure SNAP"