

## SNAP in Oakland County, Michigan

### Proposed Changes in the Farm Bill Could Hurt SNAP Households

The 2018 Farm Bill updated SNAP benefits for the first time in over 30 years with required re-evaluations to align with current food preparation practices, USDA Dietary Guidelines, and food costs. Two current proposals would remove these re-evaluations, only allowing market inflation adjustments. These draft proposals could result in a \$30M cut in SNAP over 10 years (CBO estimates shared by [CBPP](#), 2024). The Congressional Budget Office estimates this could result in a loss of \$970 Million to Michigan households and businesses (CBO estimates shared by CBPP, 2024).

**11%** Oakland County residents are experiencing food insecurity  
(Map the Meal Gap, 2022)

“We are taking care of our two grand kids. And so just having a minimum amount that we have every month is really a struggle for us, even though my husband and I do work full time. The expenses and with food going up, it is really expensive.” -Oakland County food pantry recipient

### Approximately 40,500 households in Oakland County are enrolled in SNAP

Most of these households have at least one person who is vulnerable and more negatively impacted by hunger and food insecurity. Nearly 1/3 of Oakland County households (32%, 13,276) receiving SNAP have children living there and 50% of households (20,200) receiving SNAP have at least 1 person who is 60 years or older.

Source: American Community Survey Data 2022, 1-Year Estimates, Retrieved June 2024

### SNAP Positively Impacts Oakland County Businesses

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers an economic benefit for local businesses and provides a direct investment into the health of SNAP participants. SNAP and school lunch program lifted 3.2 million adults and children out of poverty in 2020 ([FRAC](#)).

Every dollar invested in SNAP generates \$1.79 in economic activity ([FRAC](#)). On average, Michigan households receive \$181/per household member per month ([CBPP](#), 2023). There are 894 stores in Oakland County (MI) that accept EBT with an average \$192,000 per store SNAP redemption annually ([ERS, 2017](#)), and this amount likely has increased over the past few years due to the increase in SNAP benefits.

### SNAP Participation Reduces Healthcare Costs

A [new study by the Benefits Data Trust](#) reinforces the power of the SNAP to reduce health care costs. More specifically, the study found that one year of SNAP enrollment reduces health care costs by 16% and pharmacy costs 21%. When looking at long term health, [a study from Center on Budget & Policy Priorities \(CBPP\)](#) found participation also had a direct impact on long-term health for SNAP participants ([data from CBPP](#)):

- Seniors are less likely to forgo medication
- Pregnant women have improved birth outcomes
- Low-income adults participating incur \$1400 less in medical care costs than non-participating low-income adults

**“It’s hard to pay for everything...Especially with food prices increasing...How am I supposed to balance paying rent, utilities, and eating healthy with my set income?”**

### Disparities in Food Security Continue to Exist

SNAP is a proven program to improve access to food and reduce food insecurity, yet their continue to be inequities. There are approximately 41,000 veterans in MI ([CBPP](#)) who are enrolled in SNAP. Oakland County hosts resource fairs and food distribution events for Oakland County veterans. Approximately 200 veterans attend these events on average and receive food boxes to assist with supplementing their food budgets.

While Black/African- Americans represent 14% of the Oakland County population, double (nearly 35%) receive SNAP benefits. Food insecurity also greatly impacts people with disabilities. Forty-one percent (41%) of SNAP users have a disability, which is much more than the share of total Oakland County population with a disability (21%). An overwhelming majority of households (82%) that receive SNAP are currently working dispelling the myth these folks do not work.

### Fast Facts about SNAP in Oakland County

Households receiving SNAP benefits in Oakland County by race/ethnicity	Percent (%)
Asian	2%
Black/African - American	35%
Native American	0%
White (non-Hispanic)	49.6%
Two or more races	9.2%
Other	3.6%
Hispanic/Latino	6.9%

*Source: ACS Data 2022, retrieved June 2024*

For additional questions about food security in Oakland County, email [echo@oakgov.com](mailto:echo@oakgov.com).