

For immediate release

Contact: Bob Jacobson, 608-284-0580, ext. 303

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Looming SNAP Reductions Will Harm Both Families and Local Economies

Nearly 900,000 Wisconsinites Will See Benefits Shrink; House Seeks Additional Cuts

Nearly 900,000 Wisconsinites—nearly half of them children—will see a reduction in their FoodShare assistance on November 1. That’s when a temporary boost to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) designed to help reignite the economy as part of the Recovery Act is set to expire. According to a [new issue brief from the Wisconsin Budget Project](#), an independent research group that focuses on tax and budget policy, hardest hit will be Milwaukee County and the rural northern counties in which more than half of the children receive SNAP benefits.

According to [the brief](#), the across-the-board cuts in November will reduce food assistance to struggling Wisconsin families by \$89 million in fiscal year 2014 alone. To make matters worse for these households, the House of Representatives’ version of the Farm Bill would cut even deeper – slashing an additional \$40 billion from food stamp assistance over the next ten years.

“The magnitude of the reductions about to take place in FoodShare assistance is going to make it harder for families to put food on the table,” said Tamarine Cornelius, author of the issue brief. “If Congress makes additional cuts to SNAP on top of that, we’re going to see a disturbing increase in food insecurity around the state.”

In Wisconsin, SNAP benefits average about \$115 per person, or roughly \$1.30 per meal. The cuts to SNAP starting in November will mean that a family of three will have \$29 per month less to buy food.

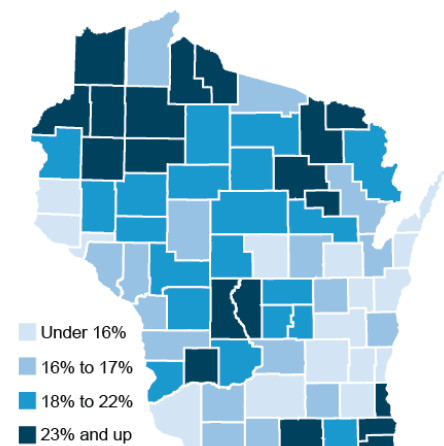
In addition to helping feed hungry families, SNAP is one of the fastest, most effective ways to stimulate a struggling economy. That’s because benefits are spent almost immediately on food at local grocery stores. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has estimated that every \$1 increase in SNAP benefits generates about \$1.70 in economic activity.

“The families who stand to lose part of their SNAP benefits aren’t the only ones who will feel the impact of the cuts,” Cornelius said. “The entire state economy is going to take a hit when that buying power vanishes.” According to Cornelius, the impact will be greatest in Milwaukee County and across the northern part of the state, where FoodShare use is highest.

The Budget Project issue brief includes a county-by-county rundown of the amount of SNAP benefits that will be lost in each Wisconsin county from November 2013 through September 2014. The brief is available online at <http://bit.ly/1bzJN8v>.

Many Families in Northern Wisconsin Rely on SNAP

Share of individuals who received SNAP benefits at some point during 2012.



Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
WISCONSIN BUDGET PROJECT