

Food Insecurity, SNAP, and the Projected Impacts of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act in Missouri

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Executive Summary

Food insecurity occurs when people do not have enough resources to access adequate food. Groups at higher risk of food insecurity include racial and ethnic minorities, those of low socioeconomic status, children, immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, the formerly incarcerated, single-parent households, and those in rural areas.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has been shown to reduce food insecurity by up to 30%.

In 2023, 42.1 million Americans (12.6% of the population) received SNAP benefits. Overall, about 70% of recipients (roughly 29.5 million people) are kids, older adults, or individuals with food insecurity. In 2024, SNAP cost the federal government roughly \$100.3 billion (1.5% of the federal budget), translating to \$6.20 per person per day.

In 2023 in Missouri, 617,000-740,000 people (10-12% of the population) were estimated to have received SNAP benefits, while 950,180 people (15.4%) of the population were food insecure. Many food insecure individuals do not qualify for SNAP due to having an income above 130% of the Federal Poverty Level. County-level rates of food insecurity range widely from 10.9-23.1%.

In 2024, a district court judge ruled that the state of Missouri has been violating federal law by administering SNAP in such a way as to make it nearly impossible for individuals to access benefits. In May of 2025, limited progress was made, with those seeking benefits waiting on the phone for an average of 45 minutes and more than 11,000 people being disconnected.

On July 4, 2025, Congress passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act through the process of budget reconciliation. The reconciliation package included a **\$186 billion cut over the next decade to the federal SNAP budget.** The bill accomplishes this through **eight overarching provisions:**

- 1) States cover up to 15% of SNAP benefit costs beginning in fiscal year 2028
- 2) States cover 75% of SNAP administrative costs beginning in fiscal year 2027
- 3) Thrifty Food Plan updates must be cost neutral, occur no earlier than October 2027, and occur no more than every five years
- 4) Work requirements become more strict and dependent children be redefined as those under the age of 14
- 5) Standard utility allowances be restricted to elderly individuals and those with disabilities
- 6) Internet expenses be excluded from excess shelter expense deductions
- 7) Funding for SNAP-Ed be eliminated beginning in fiscal year 2026
- 8) Lawfully present non-citizens be barred from SNAP

The consequences of these cuts are immediate, severe, and long-lasting. **Millions of individuals are expected to lose access to SNAP**, and even those who do not lose access will be affected by the indirect effects of program cuts and rising food costs. States will face increasing budget pressures while they lose the economic benefits of SNAP, and social service organizations will face increasing demand and diminishing resources while food insecurity rises. At the same time, other associated cuts are being made to local food purchase and emergency food assistance programs. **Altogether, public health and individuals stand to suffer as food insecurity increases and resources dwindle.**

Background

Food Insecurity and SNAP

Food insecurity occurs when people do not have enough resources to access adequate food.¹ In addition to challenges affording food, food-insecure individuals also face challenges paying for utilities, housing, and other necessities,² creating a cycle that is difficult to break. **Many groups face disproportionately high rates of food insecurity, including racial and ethnic minorities, those of low socioeconomic status, children, immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, the formerly incarcerated, single-parent households, and those in certain geographic areas (e.g., rural areas).**³ These same groups are also more likely to live in under-resourced food environments and bear the most burdens from chronic disease.⁴ Access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) **significantly reduces food insecurity**^{5,6} and the challenges that come with it.²

SNAP is a program funded and administered by the federal and state governments that provides supplemental monetary benefits to low-income families so they can afford groceries.⁷ To access SNAP, individuals must meet federal and state-level eligibility criteria (see Table 1), including having an income less than or equal to 130% of the federal poverty level (FPL). **In 2023, 47.4 million Americans (13.5% of the population) lived in food-insecure households;**⁸ **however, only 42.1 million Americans (12.6%) of the population received SNAP benefits.**⁹

Table 1: Eligibility Criteria for SNAP in Missouri^{10–14}

Must	Must NOT
Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident of ≥5 years	Own >\$3,000 in resources***
Be a Missouri resident	For households with an individual over age 60 or with a disability, this limit increases to \$4,500
Have (or be applying for) a Social Security Number (SSN) for all members of the household	Be a felon in violation of probation or parole
Have a gross monthly income of ≤130% of the FPL* This ranges from \$19,584 for a 1-member household to \$68,544 for an 8-member household	
Have a net monthly income of ≤100% of the FPL This ranges from \$15,060 for a 1-member household to \$52,728 for a 4-member household	
Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) ages 18-54 must work or participate in a work program for at least 80 hours/month**	

*Households with an individual over age 60 or with a disability do not have to meet the gross monthly income requirement, but they must meet the net monthly income requirement.

**Those failing to meet this requirement may qualify for SNAP benefits for up to three months in a three-year period. Individuals exempt from the requirement include those who: have a dependent under age 18, are medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for work, meet work requirements of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), are a caregiver, receive unemployment benefits, participate in a drug or alcohol treatment program, go to school/college/a training program at least half-time, are homeless, are pregnant, have extenuating circumstances, are age 24 or younger and aged out of foster care at age 18, or served in any branch of the US Armed Forces.

***Resources do NOT include a home, vehicle(s), life insurance, burial plots/prepaid burials, personal property that does not generate income, savings plans, pensions plans, Indian and Alaskan Native payments, or inaccessible resources.

Overall, about 70% of SNAP recipients (roughly 29.5 million people) are kids, older adults, or individuals with disabilities.⁷ These groups are particularly susceptible to food insecurity. For example, children depend on caretakers for food, can not vote for policies that affect food access, and their families face increased financial pressures that come with raising a child. They also face more severe, long-term consequences from food insecurity such as poorer overall health and body

weight outcomes, reduced immune function, increased risk for communicable disease and asthma, increased emergency room visits and health care usage, increased risk for anxiety and depression, and poorer school performance.¹⁵

In 2024, SNAP cost the federal government about \$100.3 billion (1.5% of the federal budget),¹⁶ translating to \$6.20 per person per day.¹⁷ SNAP can only be used to purchase specific foods (see Table 2).¹⁸ In 2022, SNAP households made an average of 10.9 purchases a month at \$39.08 per purchase. (Households *with* children made 17.0 transactions at \$57.85 per purchase, while households *without* children made 9.6 transactions at \$48.56 per purchase.) On average, 79.5% of benefits were redeemed in the first two weeks of the month and 94.4% by the month's end. Households carried an average account balance of \$197.67 from one month to the next, though 56.2% of households carried less than \$25. Regarding where benefits were used, 78.0% were at supermarkets, 4.2% at grocery stores, 5.3% at convenience stores, and 5.9% at internet retailers.¹⁹

Table 2: Foods That Can and Can Not Be Purchased With SNAP Benefits¹⁸

Can be purchased with SNAP		Can NOT be purchased with SNAP	
Fruits	Breads	Alcohol	Live animals
Vegetables	Cereals	Cigarettes	Hot food items
Meat	Snack foods	Tobacco	Pet foods
Poultry	Food-producing plants	Cannabis-containing foods	Non-food items
Fish	Non-alcoholic beverages	Dietary supplements	

In 2016, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) published an analysis on the types of foods purchased by 318 million SNAP and non-SNAP households. Differences in expenditures between the two groups were limited, with both groups spending 40% on "basic items like meat, fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, and bread;" 40% on "cereal, prepared foods, other dairy products, rice, beans, and other cooking ingredients;" and 20% on "sweetened drinks, desserts, salty snacks, candy, and sugar."^{20,21} While the order was slightly different, the top 10 categories of purchased foods were the same between groups (see Table 3). In fact, the share of expenditures for dairy, fruits, grains, oils, protein foods, solid fats, added sugars, and vegetables varied by less than \$0.03 per dollar.²⁰ More recent data of 76,458 households from 2010-2014 supports this,²² a remarkable finding considering SNAP households face more obstacles to accessing healthy foods (e.g., living in food deserts, lacking adequate transportation, etc.) and are pushed toward shelf-stable foods.^{23,24}

Table 3: Top 10 Expenditures by SNAP and Non-SNAP Households^{20,21}

Category	SNAP Household Expenditures			Non-SNAP Household Expenditures		
	Rank	\$ (millions)	% of total	Rank	\$ (millions)	% of total
Meat, poultry, and seafood	1	\$1,262.90	19.2%	1	\$5,016.30	15.9%
Sweetened beverages	2	\$608.70	9.3%	5	\$2,238.80	7.1%
Vegetables	3	\$473.40	7.2%	2	\$2,873.90	9.1%
Frozen prepared foods	4	\$455.20	6.9%	8	\$1,592.30	5.1%
Prepared desserts	5	\$453.80	6.9%	6	\$2,021.20	6.4%
High-fat dairy/cheese	6	\$427.80	6.5%	3	\$2,483.20	7.9%
Breads and crackers	7	\$354.90	5.4%	7	\$1,978.20	6.3%
Fruits	8	\$308.20	4.7%	4	\$2,271.20	7.2%
Milk	9	\$232.70	3.5%	9	\$1,211.00	3.8%
Salty snacks	10	\$225.60	3.4%	10	\$969.70	3.1%

Dataset from 2011, sampled from 26.5 million households per month (including 3.2 million SNAP households per month). Total expenditures were \$39.0 billion (\$6.7 billion by SNAP households).^{20,21}

Predictably, in 2017, the USDA confirmed that SNAP households spend less on food than non-SNAP households (see Table 4). SNAP covered more than 60% of the cost of food purchased for at-home consumption, and **SNAP participants spent less on food away from home.**²⁵

Table 4: Average Weekly Expenditures of SNAP Participants, Eligible Nonparticipants, and Ineligible Nonparticipants²⁵

	SNAP Participants	Eligible Nonparticipants	Ineligible (Income ≤185% FPL) Nonparticipants	Ineligible (Income >185% FPL) Nonparticipants
Average total weekly food expenditures				
<i>Per household</i>	\$107.63	\$105.67	\$92.74*	\$149.08*
<i>Per adult-male equivalent**</i>	\$46.77	\$60.87*	\$50.37	\$75.16*
Average weekly food-at-home expenditures				
<i>Per household</i>	\$80.87	\$67.93*	\$57.80*	\$88.39
<i>Per adult-male equivalent**</i>	\$35.65	\$39.97	\$32.67	\$44.77*
Average weekly food-away-from-home expenditures				
<i>Per household</i>	\$26.76	\$37.74*	\$34.94	\$60.69*
<i>Per adult-male equivalent**</i>	\$11.12	\$20.90*	\$17.70*	\$30.39*

Dataset from 2012-2013, included data from 4,826 households (14,317 household members). Of these 4,826 households, 1,581 households (32.8%) were SNAP participants, 1,117 (23.1%) were eligible nonparticipants, 336 (7.0%) were ineligible (income less than or equal to 185% FPL) nonparticipants, and 1,792 (37.1%) were ineligible (income greater than 185% FPL) nonparticipants.²⁵

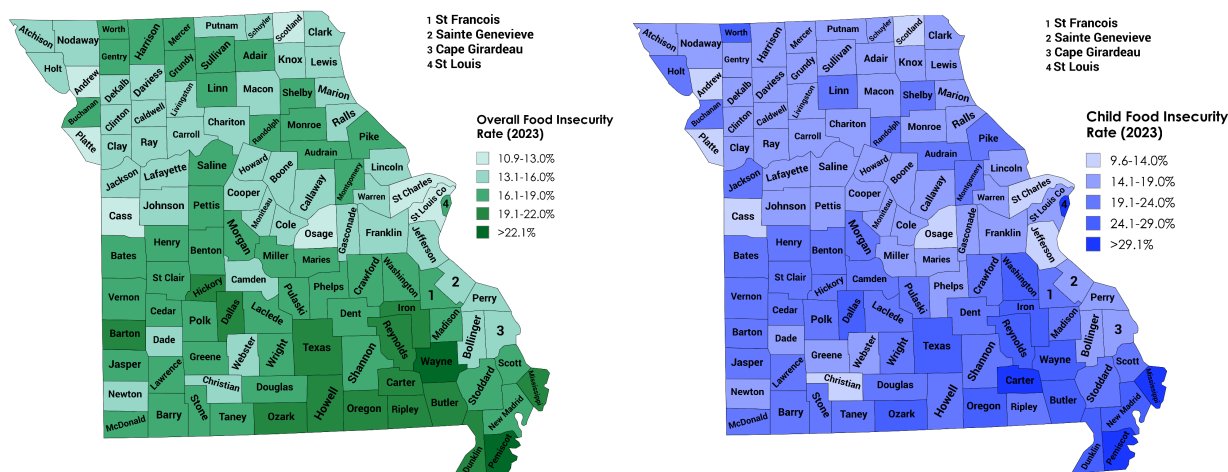
*Statistically significantly different from SNAP participants ($p < 0.10$).²⁵

**The adult-male equivalent (AME) is used to standardize expenditures, understanding that individuals of different ages and genders have different energy needs. The average daily energy needs outlined in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans were used for this analysis. The average daily energy needs of an adult male aged 31-50 in these guidelines was 2,200 calories.²⁵

Food Insecurity and SNAP in Missouri

In 2023 in Missouri, 617,000-740,000 people (10-12% of the population) received SNAP benefits.^{9,26} In contrast, Feeding America estimated that 950,180 people (15.4% of the population) were food insecure.^{26,27} **Counties' overall food insecurity rates varied widely from 10.9%-23.1%** (see Figure 1). **Counties' child food insecurity rates were even higher, ranging from 9.6%-33.2%** (see Figure 1). Despite being food insecure, **59% of the food insecure population did not qualify for SNAP** due to having an income greater than 130% of the FPL.²⁷ According to the Missouri Budget Project (MBP), only six states spend less on resident services per capita than Missouri, spending which declined from \$2,291 in 2000 to \$1,837 in 2023 (inflation adjusted).²⁸

Figure 1: Overall (Left) and Child (Right) Food Insecurity Rates in Missouri Counties in 2023



Adapted from Feeding America³

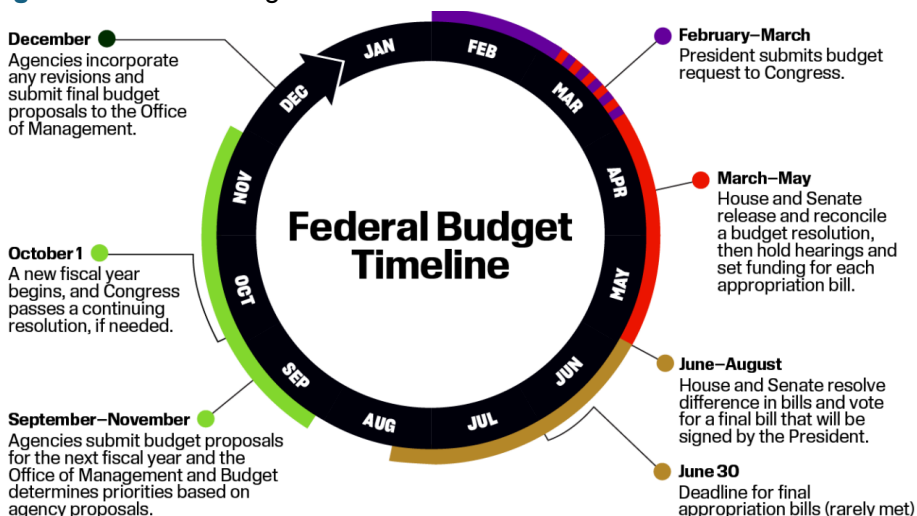
In 2021, Missouri's General Assembly created the Missouri Food Security Task Force to evaluate the impacts of food insecurity and propose solutions. Many proposals involved using state and federal resources to strengthen SNAP.²⁹ That same year, after Missouri ended its public health emergency status (and its resulting pandemic-related SNAP benefit expansions), SNAP participants lost an average of \$82 a month, reducing benefits to an average of \$6 per person per day. Overall, roughly 340,000 households were affected.³⁰

In addition, **Missouri already does a poor job of administering SNAP**,³¹ so much so that in 2024 a district court judge ruled the state was violating federal law by making it nearly impossible for people to access benefits. Unfortunately, one year later, no significant changes have been made. In May of 2025, call wait times were so long (an average of 45 minutes and maximum of over five hours) that more than 11,000 people were disconnected and more than 10,000 hung up.³²

The Reconciliation Bill and SNAP

At the beginning of each year, the president proposes a budget to Congress. Congress then passes a budget resolution to outline spending goals over 10 years. Then, budget reconciliation begins, whereby congressional committees take directives from the budget resolution and propose specific policy changes (see Figure 2).³³ (Reconciliation was originally established in 1974 to expedite pressing financial legislation, but it has been increasingly used to alter federal spending since reconciliation bills are not subject to a Senate filibuster, require 51 votes instead of 60, and have limited scope for amendments.³⁴)

Figure 2: Federal Budget Timeline³³



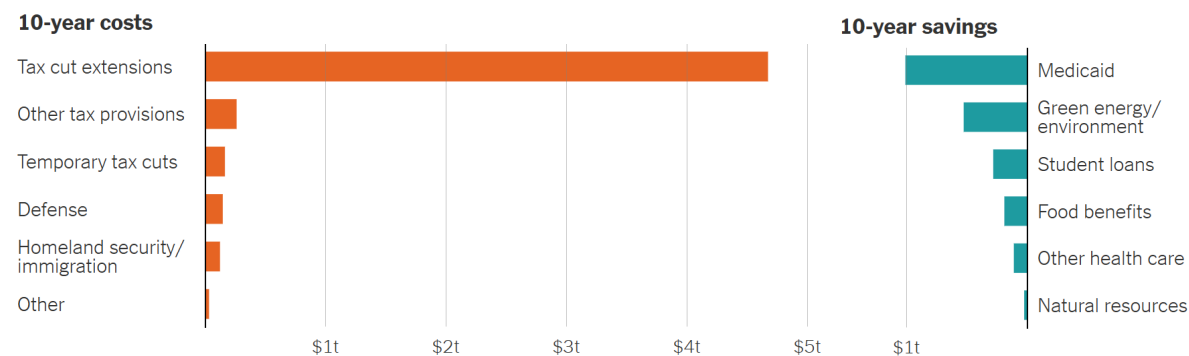
This year, the budget resolution tasked the House Agriculture Committee with cutting roughly \$230 billion over 10 years.³⁵ (Because roughly 80% of the committee's funding goes to SNAP, this program is most affected. Other funding goes to commodity subsidies, crop insurance, conservation programs, rural development, and agricultural research.³⁶) The original House proposal cut more, roughly \$290 billion from SNAP, to save \$60 billion for allocations under the upcoming Farm Bill.³⁷ In contrast, the Senate proposal cut roughly \$197 billion,^{38,39} and the final, passed version (the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* or OBBBA) **cut \$186 billion from SNAP over a decade**.⁴⁰

Though less than the original proposal, this is still **the largest cut ever made to SNAP**,^{38,39} **reflecting nearly a 20% funding decrease**.³⁵ The Urban Institute estimates that **22.3 million families could lose at least a portion of their SNAP benefits**, with 5.3 million (3.3 million of which have children and 3.5 million of which are working) losing at least \$25 per person per month.⁴¹

Other Aspects of the Reconciliation Bill

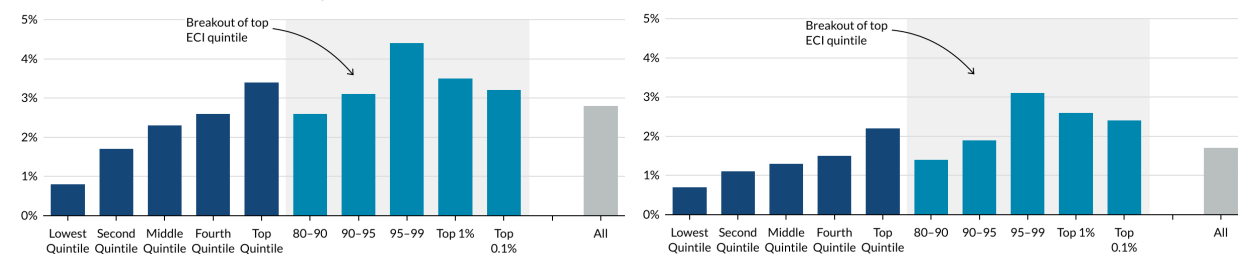
In addition to SNAP cuts, OBBBA also cuts spending for healthcare, environmental, and educational programs while extending tax cuts and increasing defense and immigration spending³⁹ (see Figure 3⁴²). **OBBBA is estimated to add \$3.4 trillion to the national debt**⁴³ and **increase the number of uninsured people in America by 1.51 million over the next decade**.⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶

Figure 3: Estimated 10-Year Costs and Savings of OBBBA⁴²



Regarding the tax cuts, while the Tax Policy Center estimates that OBBBA will decrease average taxes by \$2,900 in 2026, benefits will be proportionally larger for higher-income households, with the top 20% of households (those earning greater than \$217,000 a year) receiving roughly 60% of tax benefits (see Figure 4).⁴⁷ Furthermore, **for lower-income households, savings from tax benefits could easily be offset by cuts to Medicaid and SNAP**.⁴⁸

Figure 4: Estimated Effects of OBBBA's Tax Provisions on Percent Change in After-Tax Income in 2026 (Left) and 2030 (Right)⁴⁷



Dollar equivalents from left to right for 2026: \$150 (0.8%), \$750 (5.8%), \$1,780 (12.9%), \$3,460 (20.0%), \$12,540 (59.8%), \$5,440 (13.3%), \$8,950 (10.7%), \$21,130 (19.3%), \$75,410 (16.5%), and \$286,440 (6.5%).⁴⁹

Income percentile classes from left to right for 2026 (in 2025 dollars): \$34,600 (20%), \$66,800 (40%), \$119,200 (60%), \$217,100 (80%), \$317,700 (90%), \$460,800 (95%), \$1,141,900 (99%), and \$5,184,900 (99.9%).⁴⁹

Dollar equivalents from left to right for 2030: \$160 (2.0%), \$590 (6.3%), \$1,160 (11.7%), \$2,280 (18.5%), \$9,390 (61.8%), \$3,260 (11.0%), \$6,210 (10.2%), \$17,170 (21.4%), \$62,700 (19.2%), and \$233,920 (7.2%).⁵⁰

Income percentile classes from left to right for 2030 (in 2025 dollars): \$36,400 (20%), \$70,000 (40%), \$124,100 (60%), \$226,100 (80%), \$332,900 (90%), \$484,800 (95%), \$1,160,000 (99%), and \$5,516,900 (99.9%).⁵⁰

ECI = expanded cash income

SNAP Changes and Their Projected Impacts

This section lists and describes the changes to SNAP in OBBBA, as well as their predicted impacts.

1. States start covering up to 15% of SNAP benefit costs beginning in fiscal year 2028.^{51,52}

- Currently, the federal government covers 100% of SNAP benefits.³⁷ Under OBBBA, this will change in fiscal year (FY) 2028, with the amount determined by state payment error rates.³⁶
 - **Payment error rates** reflect how accurately states determine households' eligibility for SNAP as well as their benefits. Errors occur when households receive either underpayments or overpayments.⁵³
 - Importantly, **errors are not the same as fraud**, as many errors result from unintentional mistakes in paperwork or data entry. Recipients must pay back overpayments, even if the mistake was not their doing, and states with substantial errors or poor audits must address the root causes of errors.^{53,54}
 - In 2024, the national average error rate was 10.93% (low of 3.28%, high of 24.66%). Missouri's error rate was 9.42%. For all states, the number of overpayments was much larger than the number of underpayments.⁵⁵
- **Starting in FY 2028, states will cover 5%, 10%, or 15% of SNAP benefit costs when their error rates equal or exceed 6%, 8%, or 10%, respectively.* States with error rates less than 6% will pay no benefit costs.**^{38,51} (FY 2028 payment percentages will be calculated using error rates from FYs 2025 and 2026. After that, percentages will use error rates from the FY three years prior.⁵¹)
 - This is scaled back from the original House proposal of 15% or 25% for states with error rates exceeding 6% and 10%, respectively.⁵⁶
 - *To gain Senator Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) vote, **this provision includes a carveout** that delays cost-sharing by two years for states with an error rate greater than or equal to 13.34%.^{57,58} (This currently includes nine states and D.C.⁵⁵ Alaska has the highest error rate.⁵⁵) Interestingly, this may **create an incentive for states to deliberately increase their error rates temporarily** in order to delay cost-sharing.^{57,58}

2. States start covering 75% of SNAP administrative costs beginning in fiscal year 2027.^{51,52}

- Currently, the federal government covers 50% of SNAP administrative costs.³⁷ This change will decrease the federal contribution to 25% starting in FY 2027.^{51,52}
- This change is projected to cut \$27 billion over 10 years from the federal SNAP budget.⁵⁹

3. Mandate future Thrifty Food Plan updates be cost neutral, occur no earlier than October 2027, and occur no more than every five years.^{51,52}

- The Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) is the USDA's estimate of the cost of groceries for “a healthy, budget-conscious diet for a family of four.” The TFP determines SNAP benefit amounts.⁶⁰
 - Before 2021, the TFP had not been updated in 15 years. In 2021, the Biden administration revised the TFP, increasing SNAP allotments by 21% (or by \$1.20 per person per day).⁶¹ The current TFP level is \$835.57 a month for a family of four.⁶²
 - Actual SNAP allocations vary based on household income and family size. For example, in 2024, Missouri's total benefits were \$1.54 billion, reflecting an average monthly benefit of \$397 per household and \$196 per person.¹¹
- This change states that the next TFP revision may not occur before October 2027, at which point reevaluations will be required every five years.⁴⁵ It also mandates that future updates are cost-neutral (i.e., no increases aside from adjusting for inflation).^{37,45}
- This change is projected to cut \$37 billion over 10 years from the federal SNAP budget.⁵⁹

4. Expand work requirements and redefine dependent children as those under the age of 14.^{51,52}

- Currently, unless they work 20 hours per week or meet certain exemptions,⁴⁵ able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) aged 18-54 may only receive SNAP benefits for three months in a three-year period.²⁹ This change will expand the requirement for ABAWDs to ages 18-64 (unless they meet certain exemptions*) and make it more difficult for states to waive requirements.^{37,50}
 - *There are over a dozen exemptions, including being medically certified as unfit for employment, being a pregnant woman, being under age of 18 or over 65, etc. However, **OBBA will phase out exemptions for individuals who are homeless, veterans, or former foster youth.**^{51,52}
- Separate from ABAWDs, there are also general work requirements. Currently these apply to individuals aged 16-59. This change will expand requirements to ages 18-64.⁴⁵
- Additionally, this provision **redefines dependent children as those under the age of 14.**⁴⁵
 - Currently, dependents are defined as children under the age of 18. (Having dependents exempts individuals from work requirements.)³⁷
- These changes have no specific timeline but could begin as early as 2025.⁶⁴
- The change for ABAWDs is projected to cut \$69 billion over 10 years from the federal SNAP budget.⁶⁵

5. Restrict usage of standard utility allowances to the elderly and those with disabilities.^{51,52}

- Currently, any SNAP household can use state standard utility allowances (SUAs), which simplify the process of factoring utility costs into the SNAP benefit formula.⁶⁶ This change will restrict SUAs for heating and cooling only to households with elderly individuals or individuals with disabilities.^{51,52,67}
- These changes have no specific timeline⁵¹ but could begin as early as 2025.
- This change is projected to cut \$6 billion over 10 years from the federal SNAP budget.⁵⁹
- The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) estimates this change will **cut benefits by an average of \$100 per month for 600,000 low-income households**, including 500,000 children.⁶⁵

6. Exclude internet expenses from excess shelter expense deductions.^{51,52}

- Excess shelter expense deductions allow households to deduct a portion of housing costs, if they exceed half of their income, from the income level used to calculate the household's SNAP benefits.⁶⁸
- This change will prevent internet costs from being included in excess shelter expenses.^{51,52}
- This change has no specific timeline⁵¹ but could begin as early as 2025.
- This change is projected to cut \$11 billion over 10 years from the federal SNAP budget.⁵⁹

7. Eliminate funding for SNAP-Education (SNAP-Ed) beginning in fiscal year 2026.^{51,52}

- SNAP-Ed (also called the USDA's National Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program) teaches SNAP participants how to cook healthy meals, increase physical activity, and stretch SNAP dollars effectively.⁶⁹
- Funding for SNAP-Ed was 0.4% of the 2021 SNAP budget (roughly half a billion dollars total, or \$5.15 per person annually). Despite increasing need and **proof of efficacy**, funding has been static for over a decade.⁷⁰
 - In one year in Illinois, SNAP-Ed returned \$5.36-\$9.54 per \$1 spent and prevented 5,060 cases of obesity and 570 cases of food insecurity.⁷¹
- This change is projected to cut \$5 billion over 10 years from the federal SNAP budget.⁵⁹

8. Bar many lawfully present non-citizens from SNAP.^{51,52}

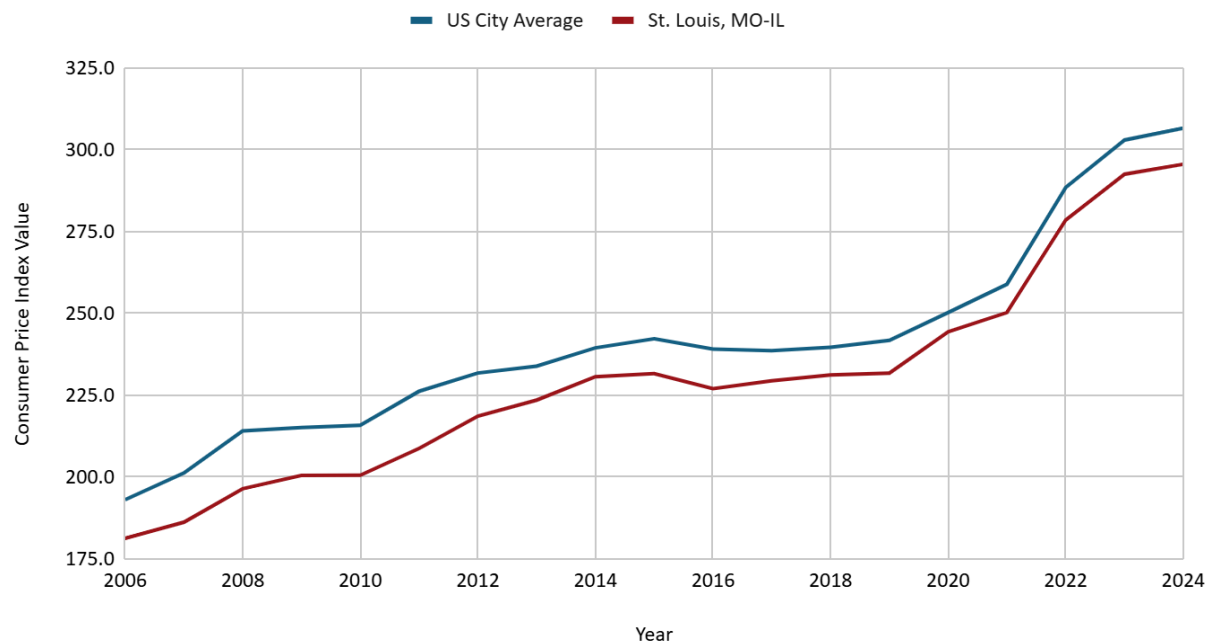
- Currently, certain groups of lawfully present non-citizens can access SNAP. This includes refugees, asylum grantees, severe trafficking victims, individuals whose deportation was withheld, and more. (Individuals without documentation have never been allowed to access SNAP.)⁷²
- This change will bar many lawfully present non-citizens from SNAP.⁴⁵ The only non-citizens eligible will be US residents or nationals, Cuban or Haitian entrants, lawfully permanent residents under the Immigration and Nationality Act, and lawful residents under the Compact of Free Association in the Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act.^{45,51,52}
- These changes have no specific timeline but could begin as early as 2025.⁶⁴
- The CBPP estimates this change will cause **60,000-125,000 documented immigrants to lose SNAP.**⁶⁵

Predicted Consequences of SNAP Cuts

Consequences for Individuals

Millions of individuals are expected to lose access to SNAP as a result of the provisions outlined above.⁷³ According to the MBP, **655,264 individuals in 323,462 households were served by SNAP in Missouri in FY 2024.**¹¹ Whether it is a specific provision or downstream effects of the cuts overall, **every one of these individuals will be impacted by SNAP cuts.** For example, even after it was updated in 2021, questions about the adequacy of the TFP still remain.⁷⁴ With the next update not allowed before October of 2027, future updates required to be cost neutral, and rising food costs (see Figure 5), **SNAP benefits are sure to stretch less and less as the years go on.**

Figure 5: Consumer Price Index, Food at Home in US City Average and St. Louis, MO-IL



Adapted from US Bureau of Labor Statistics data (not seasonally adjusted).⁷⁵

At the same time, federal funding for SNAP-Ed, which taught SNAP recipients, among other things, how to stretch their benefits, has been eliminated. **In FY 2024, 74,882 Missourians (including 63,163 youth participants) attended SNAP-Ed classes,** and 1,164,143 educational contacts were made through farmers markets, newsletters, and events due to SNAP-Ed.⁷⁶

Missourians can expect to feel the impacts of increased work requirements for many years, as increasing work requirements, even if they are later reversed, has long-term consequences. While expanding work requirements leads to immediate declines in SNAP enrollment, reversing them does not lead to an immediate and equal increase. In fact, it can take nearly a year for enrollment to recover, as households need to be aware of the reversal and complete new applications.⁷⁷

In addition to the direct impacts of TFP restrictions, SNAP-Ed elimination, and increased work requirements, there are also indirect consequences of SNAP cuts. For example, in many cases, being in a SNAP household automatically qualifies a child for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs (NSLP and SBP). Thus, not only will OBBBA result in many households losing access to SNAP, but it may also result in their **children losing access to the NSLP and SBP or**

facing increased red tape to access them.⁷⁸ For children, whose brains and bodies are still developing, the consequences of food insecurity are severe.¹⁵

Consequences for Missouri

The two provisions that will hit Missouri the hardest are the contributions to SNAP benefits and administrative costs. Using SNAP data from 2020, 2024, and 2025,^{51,55,79–81} these two provisions will result in an **increased cost of \$172.3 million Missouri will have to cover in FYs 2027 and 2028** (see Table 5). Because states must balance their budgets, federal cuts to SNAP will force states to pull funding from other services and potentially further restrict SNAP benefits and eligibility.^{17,82} Because OBBBA also substantially cut Medicaid,⁸³ and because Medicaid expansion is enshrined in Missouri's constitution, funding adjustment opportunities are even more limited.⁸⁴

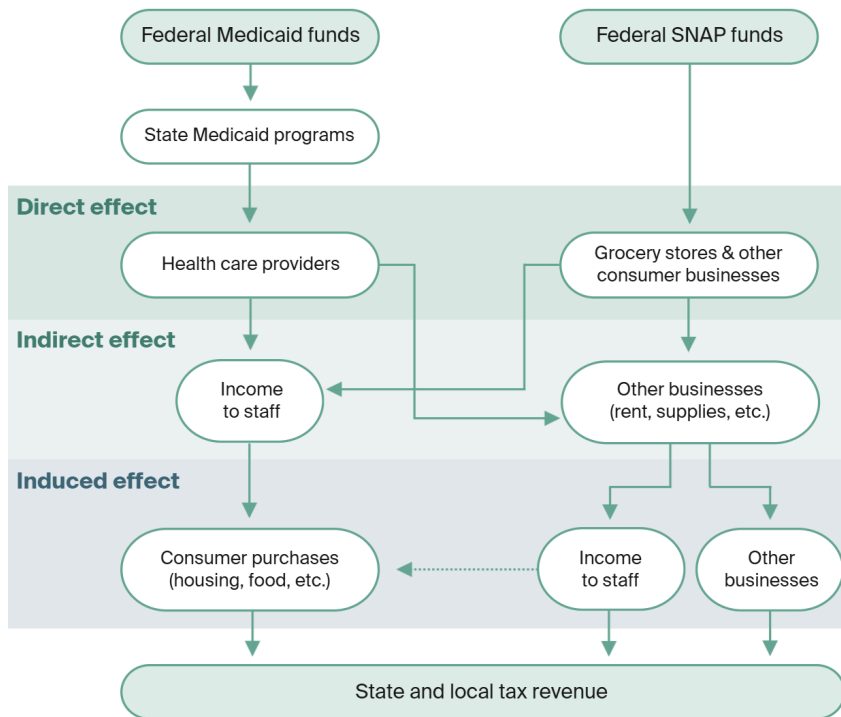
Table 5: Estimated Increased SNAP Costs in Missouri Under OBBBA^{51,55,79–81}

Missouri SNAP Benefits		
SNAP Benefit Costs in April 2025		
Total cost of SNAP benefits in April 2025		\$127,939,292.71
Total number of individuals on SNAP in April 2025		652,427
Average benefit per person per month		\$196.10
Average benefit per person per day		\$6.45
State Share of SNAP Benefit Costs Under OBBBA		
Estimated total cost of SNAP benefits in 2025		\$1,535,271,512.52
Payment error rate in 2024		9.42%
State share of benefit costs under OBBBA		10.00%
Estimated benefit costs shifted to state under OBBBA		\$153,527,151.25
Missouri SNAP Administration		
SNAP Administrative Costs in 2020		
Total state administrative costs in 2020		\$76,844,714.00
State share of total administrative costs in 2020		50.00%
State cost of SNAP administration in 2020*		\$37,470,663.00
State Share of SNAP Administrative Costs Under OBBBA		
State share of total administrative costs under OBBBA		75.00%
Estimated increase in administrative costs to state under OBBBA		\$18,735,331.50
Estimated total state cost of SNAP administration under OBBBA		\$56,205,994.50
Total State Costs Under OBBBA		
Estimated increase		\$172,262,482.75
Estimated total		\$209,733,145.75

*State share is actually 48.76%, data from USDA State Activity Report FY 2020.⁸¹

Missouri could avoid paying for SNAP benefits if it can reduce its error rate below 6% in FY 2026,⁵¹ but doing so while also preparing for an increase in administrative costs in FY 2027 will be difficult.⁸⁵ Additionally, at the same time states face increased costs from SNAP, they are also likely to face job^{35,86} and tax revenue losses (see Figure 6).⁶¹ These losses are expected to hit rural areas and supermarkets especially hard,⁸⁷ as these communities are more dependent on SNAP.⁸⁸ Extension Missouri estimates that **every \$1 invested in SNAP-Ed returns \$5.36 in economic benefits** through health care savings, improved educational outcomes, and lifetime earnings.⁸⁹ Missouri received \$11,419,598 in total SNAP-Ed funding in FY 2025.⁹⁰ Assuming the same funding and economic benefits, this reflects a **\$61,209,045 annual missed economic opportunity**.⁸⁹

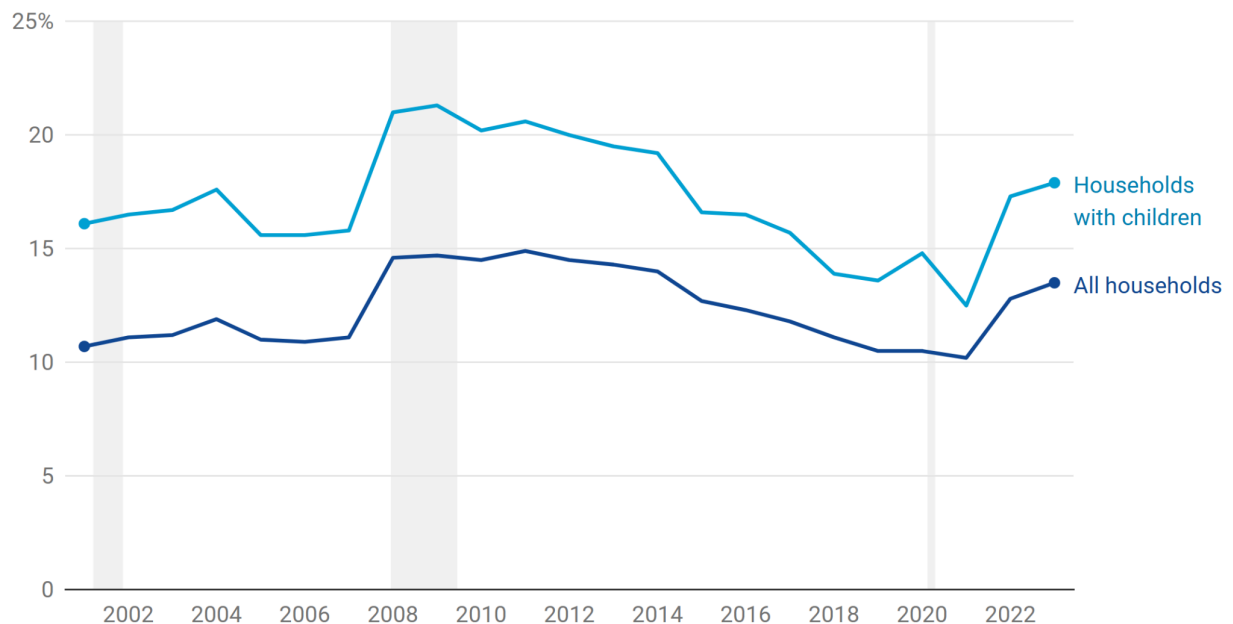
Figure 6: How Reductions in Medicaid or SNAP Affect State Economies³⁵



Consequences for Social Service Organizations

It is important to note that food banks, food pantries, and other social service organizations (SSOs) **will not be able to fill the gaps left by SNAP cuts**, especially not at a time when food insecurity is already rising rapidly (see Figure 7). In Missouri specifically, food insecurity rose by 3.8% between 2021 and 2023.⁹¹

Figure 7: Trends in Food Insecurity Rates Among US Households and Households with Children⁹¹



According to Feeding America, **for every one meal Feeding America’s network provides, SNAP provides nine.**⁹² SNAP has been shown to reduce food insecurity by 30%.⁹³ When individuals are removed from or receive less from SNAP, their need does not go away. Instead, they must increasingly turn to other resources, such as SSOs, which have finite and often limited resources.⁹⁴ Even before OBBBA, **45% of low-income households receiving groceries from charities also received SNAP benefits**, and the majority of food banks reported experiencing increased demand when pandemic-related SNAP benefit expansions ended in 2023. When demand increases at SSOs, lines become longer, volunteers become more strained, and donated supplies stretch less.⁹¹

Other Relevant Cuts

At the same time they are facing increased need, SSOs are also seeing their own federal funding sources dry up. For example, **roughly \$420 million in funding (including \$6,232,961 in Missouri⁹¹) for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement**, which supports local farmers in distributing food to SSOs, **was terminated for FY 2025. \$660 million in funding for the Local Foods for Schools Program**, which helps states purchase local foods for schools, **was also terminated for FY 2025.**⁹⁵ Additionally, **roughly \$500 million in funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program**, which provides food to food banks for distribution, **was frozen or canceled.**⁹¹

Other funding cuts include \$10 million for the Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program,⁹⁶ which provides nutrition education and supports locally sourcing foods;⁹⁷ \$3.1 billion for the Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities,⁹⁸ which aims to help farmers adopt sustainable practices;⁹⁹ and proposed cuts for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC),^{100,101} which provides food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to pregnant and postpartum individuals and their children.¹⁰²

Overall, as of the beginning of May 2025, the USDA had cancelled or halted 597 grants (totaling over \$3.45 billion) and over 3,000 contracts (totaling over \$1.8 billion).¹⁰³ Funding was cancelled or halted based on claims that it was related to diversity, equity, and inclusion; did not help farmers; and wasted taxpayer money.^{36,103} Many of the grants were related to small, sustainable farms; environmental protections; and/or improving access to and education about healthy foods in low-income communities.³⁶ Experts described these programs as a “win-win” since they did not cost much in the context of the overall federal budget and allowed schools to receive fresh produce and small farmers to receive payment.⁷⁰

Conclusion

The SNAP cuts outlined in OBBBA directly contradict the recommendations of public health experts. Rather than making cuts to SNAP, these experts recommend pairing financial incentives for purchasing healthy foods with disincentives for purchasing less healthy foods; maximizing enrollment of eligible individuals at risk of food insecurity; preventing barriers (such as stricter work requirements) from impairing access to benefits; ensuring adequate benefit levels through, at a minimum, annual TFP updates for inflation; involving participants in the design, implementation, and evaluation of SNAP; and more rigorously evaluating SNAP.^{93,104} SNAP has come a long way since its inception, and there is and will always be room for improvement, but **as long as changes focus on restricting access, both public health and individuals will suffer.**

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