

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest federal nutrition assistance program and the first line of defense against hunger. SNAP supplements low-income family food budgets so they can purchase food that meets their needs. For every meal provided by food banks and food shelves, SNAP provides 9, making it by far the most efficient solution.

An unprecedented 20% of Minnesotans are reporting food insecurity. In order fully leverage SNAP to address high levels of food insecurity due to COVID-19, Hunger Solutions Minnesota worked with partners across the state on a project to explore ways to improve SNAP in Minnesota by hearing directly from SNAP participants and individuals experiencing food insecurity through surveys and listening sessions.

1 in 3 respondents NOT on SNAP report being food insecure. Many reporting being just above the current income limit, or having their income and eligibility for SNAP fluctuate. **During a time of need it's critical we fully leverage SNAP to make sure low income Minnesotans have enough food on the table to feed their families.**



## The Solution

### Raising the SNAP Gross Income Threshold in Minnesota

Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) allows states to increase the SNAP income eligibility. In Minnesota we have the ability to increase the gross income threshold on SNAP from 165% to 200% of federal poverty. By doing this we can help out many who are struggling to put food on the table to get the resources they need to feed their families.

**“I make too much to receive SNAP, and barely enough to survive for my kid and I.”**

- SNAP Project Participant

**\$1**

in SNAP generates

**\$1.70**

in economic activity

**Raising the gross income threshold for SNAP would:**

- Strengthen food security and economic stability among low-income working households
- Provide SNAP benefits to low-income Minnesotans with high expenses like housing and childcare
- Bring more federal funding into Minnesota
- Boost the local economy

**“I’ve been unemployed since the Pandemic started, which brought us from 2 incomes to 1.**

**Free food giveaways and school food help so much because they are about the only thing we qualify for, but we really need to cut expenses somewhere”**

- SNAP Project Participant