The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation’s most important anti-hunger program.

Who Does SNAP Reach?

In Fiscal Year 2014, it reached:

- **431,000** New Mexico residents, or **21%** of the state population *(1 in 5)*
- **46,536,000** participants in the United States, or **15%** of the total population *(1 in 7 people)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW MEXICO</th>
<th>NATIONALLY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>more than 74%</td>
<td>almost 24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>of all SNAP participants are in families with children</td>
<td>of all SNAP participants are in families with elderly or disabled members</td>
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<tr>
<td>almost 70%</td>
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Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, FY 2013

The majority of SNAP recipients in New Mexico are children, elderly, or disabled

In New Mexico many households still struggle to put food on the table:

- **13.2%** of households were “food insecure,” or struggled to afford a nutritionally adequate diet, in 2011-2013.
- **6.1%** of the population was unemployed in December 2014.
- In 2013, average income in New Mexico was **5.8% below** the 2007 level.
- **21.9%** of the population lived below the poverty line in 2013.
- **30.9%** of children lived below the poverty line in 2013.
- **11.7%** of elderly lived below the poverty line in 2013.

SNAP reaches needy populations: **90%** of eligible individuals participated in SNAP in New Mexico in 2012. In New Mexico in FY 2013, **88%** of households receiving SNAP had income below the poverty line (about $23,850 for a family of four in 2014), and **45%** of households were in deep poverty, with income below 50% of the poverty line.

SNAP kept **33,000** people out of poverty from 2009-2012.
What Benefits Do SNAP Recipients Receive?

SNAP targets benefits according to need. Very poor households receive more SNAP benefits than households closer to the poverty line since they need more help affording an adequate diet. Households receive SNAP benefits on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which can be used only to purchase food at one of the 252,900 authorized retail locations around the country, including 1,500 in New Mexico.

Average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member:  
October 2013: $133*  
November 2013-September 2014: $121

Average monthly SNAP benefit per person per meal:  
October 2013: $1.47*  
November 2013-September 2014: $1.34

*This amount includes the temporary boost in benefits provided by the economic recovery legislation, which expired in November 2013.

How Does SNAP Benefit the Economy?

Moody's Analytics estimates that in a weak economy, $1 in SNAP benefits generates $1.70 in economic activity.

SNAP benefits pumped about $630 million into New Mexico's economy in 2014.

For more information on the SNAP program, including New Mexico-specific information, please see:

NM state SNAP program: [http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/LookingForAssistance/Supplemental_Nutrition_Assistance_Program__SNAP__.aspx](http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/LookingForAssistance/Supplemental_Nutrition_Assistance_Program__SNAP__.aspx)