POLICYWISE in Iowa

Gaps in the Economy
Equitable Access to Food

We all need adequate, nutritious food in order to work, learn, and thrive.

Strong food assistance programs ensure Iowans have the support they need when income isn’t enough to make ends meet.
Top food access priorities

- **Protect** in SNAP in Iowa from cuts
- **Expand access** to fruit & veggies through Double Up Food Bucks
- **Secure** Healthy School Meals for All
- **Boost** SNAP income eligibility to better reflect food insecurity in Iowa
Root causes of food insecurity

- Income, wealth inequality
- Inequitable housing access
- Health care, child care costs
- Historic, contemporary racism
What is SNAP, how does it work?
The Impact of SNAP

Economic multiplier effect:

• For every $1 spent on SNAP, $1.54 is pumped into local Iowa economies

Essential for the health of Iowans

• Child development
• Educational attainment
• Prevention of disease
• Lifetime earnings
Combined resources from wages and work supports: Single parent with one child

Basic Needs Budget with private insurance: $47,122

Work supports are crucial, but still fall short

- Child Care Assistance
- Food assistance and LIHEAP
- Public health insurance & subsidies
- Refundable tax credits
- Total family take-home earnings*
- Basic needs budget
How Covid changed SNAP policy

- Emergency allotments
- Thrifty food plan update
- P-EBT
- Free school meals
- Summer Food Service Program
Loss of emergency allotments

2020 SNAP benefit allotments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Allotments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-Dec</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-Feb</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-Mar</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-May</td>
<td>30,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-Jul</td>
<td>40,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Aug</td>
<td>50,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>60,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Loss of emergency allotments

“Starting in April, my SNAP benefits will be reduced by the state from $250 to $20 per month. Quality of life relies on access to healthy food. My nutritional requirements are currently being met only because I have been able to purchase food appropriate for me with the additional SNAP benefits I have been receiving.” – Tara Kramer, Des Moines
Loss of emergency allotments

“We will be choosing between medication and food, and we know several other seniors that are in the same position. My husband has mesothelioma and I am on disability. With inflation and the cost of food like it is, we need the pandemic-level SNAP benefits to continue, but we are seniors, so I guess the government just wants us to dry up and blow away.”

– Butler County resident
Supply chain, inflation impacts

Food bank picture
Lawmakers should:

- Protect SNAP from cuts
- Ensure Healthy School Meals for All
- Invest in Double Up Food Bucks
- Update SNAP income eligibility
- Boost tax credits
Protect SNAP from cuts

- Redundant eligibility verifications
- Asset testing
- Custodial child support recovery
- Work reporting requirements
Ensure Healthy School Meals for All
Invest in Double Up Food Bucks

Buy $1 → Get $1
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Free Fruits & Vegetables
Expand SNAP income eligibility

- Two-parent family, both working, three children: $31,040 (Poverty Level), $63,522 (Family Supporting Income)
- Two-parent family, both working, one child: $21,960 (Poverty Level), $61,766 (Family Supporting Income)
- Single parent with two children: $21,960 (Poverty Level), $50,193 (Family Supporting Income)
- Older married couple, no children: $17,420 (Poverty Level), $47,806 (Family Supporting Income)
- Young single living alone: $12,880 (Poverty Level), $28,782 (Family Supporting Income)
Boost tax credits

- Double the Earned Income Tax Credit
- Refundable state child tax credit
- Low-income renters’ and homeowners’ tax credit
Support our work today

- $22: Promote good policy online
- $66: Mail a post card to each legislator
- $125: Support a lobbying trip or visit to your community
- $500: Launch a targeted issue campaign

505 5th Avenue, Ste 404
Des Moines, IA 50309

commongoodiowa.org/donate
Thank you

Natalie Veldhouse
nveldhouse@commongoodiowa.org

Find us online at
www.commongoodiowa.org

And on social
@commongoodiowa