



SNAP Myths, Facts & Trends





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About FNS

Our Vision:

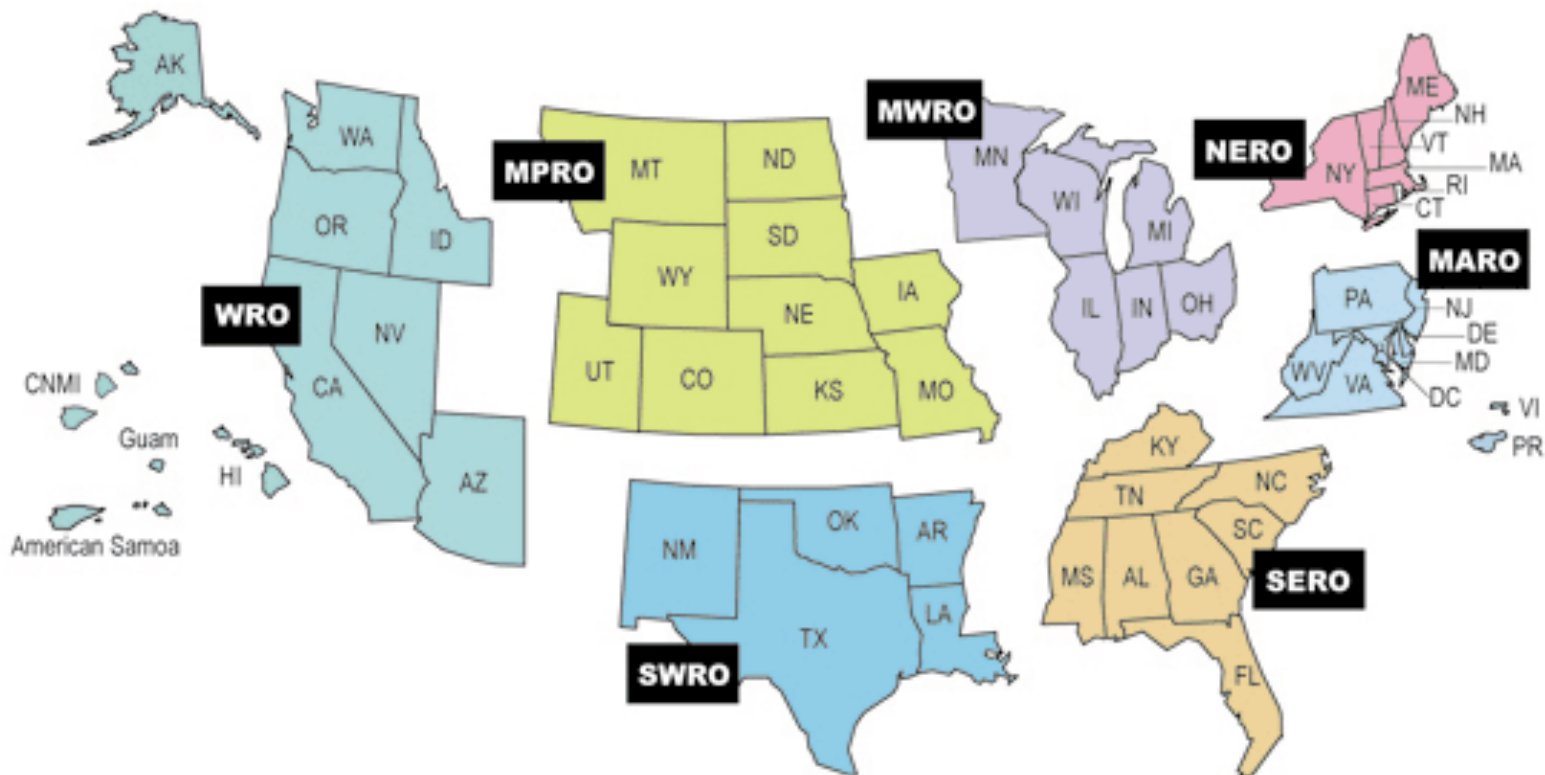
To End Hunger and Improve Nutrition in America

Food Nutrition Service Mission:

Increase food security and reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet and nutrition education in a way that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.



About FNS



About FNS

15 Programs

1. SNAP
2. School Meals (breakfast, lunch)
3. TEFAP (emergency food assistance)
4. WIC
5. Child & Adult Care Food
6. Food Distribution on Indian Reservations
7. Summer Food Service
8. Farmers Market (WIC & Seniors)



Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1933

**During the
depths of the
depression,
farmers kept
producing but
no one had
money to buy**



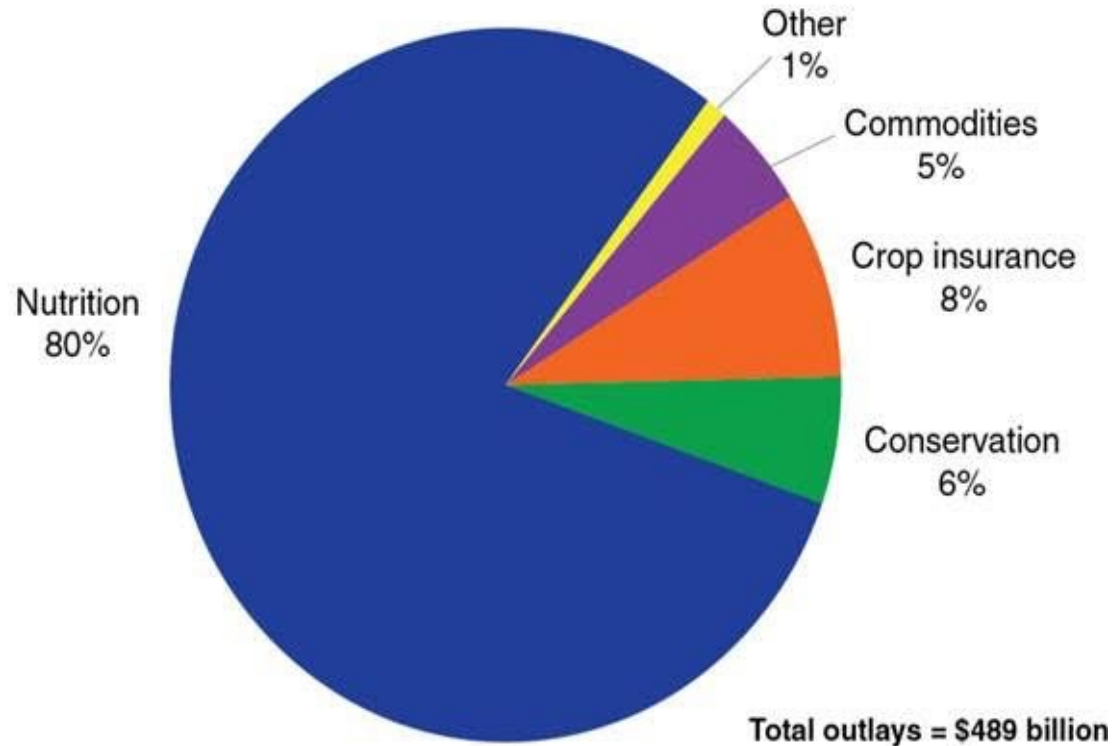
HISTORY OF FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICE

- **In the midst of the Great Depression, Congress wanted to quickly pass a bill that relieved the existing national economic emergency by increasing agriculture purchasing power.**
- **Agriculture Secretary Henry A. Wallace pledged that the government would purchase “agriculture products from those who have too much for those who have too little.”**



SLICE OF THE PIE

Projected outlays under the 2014 Farm Act, 2014-2018

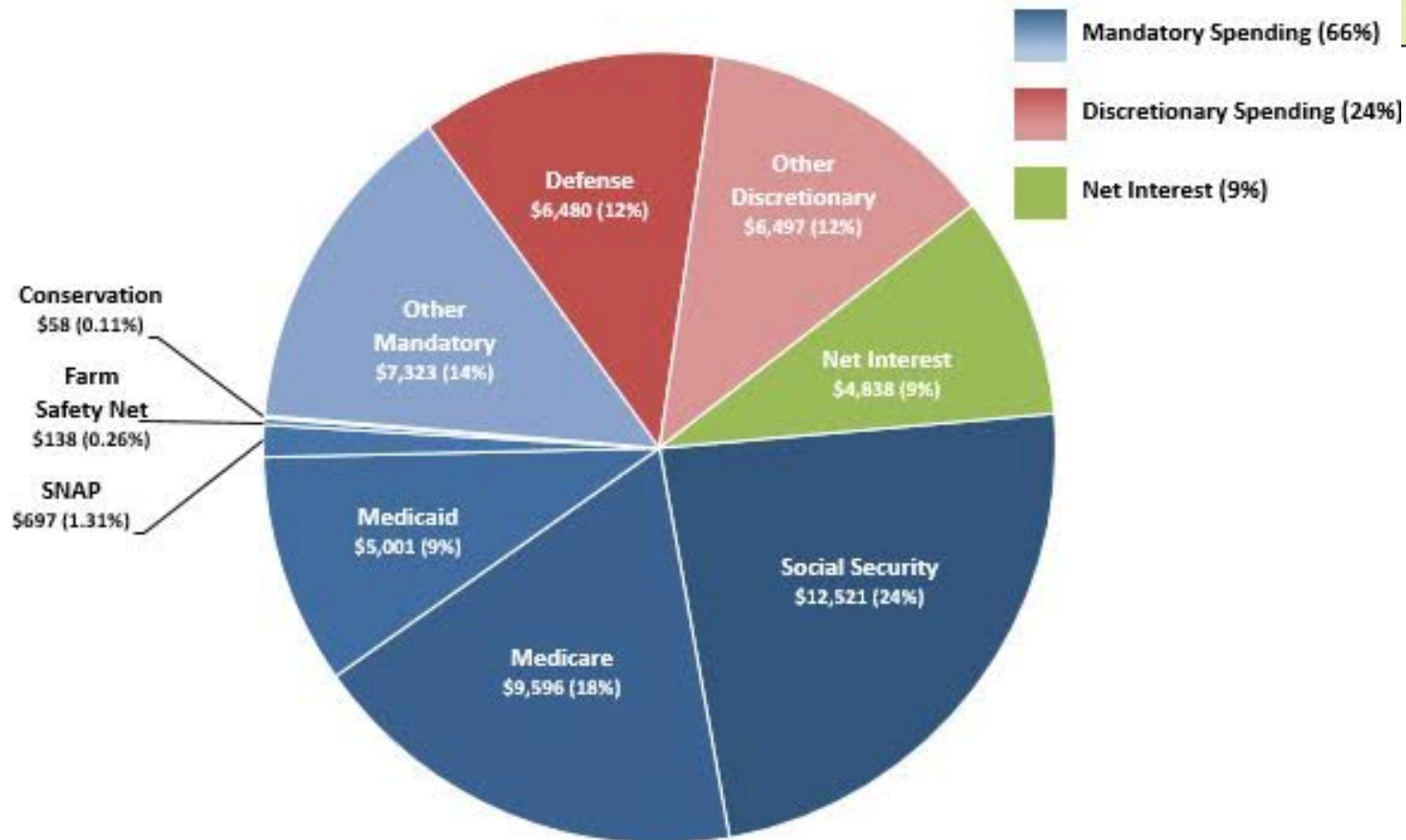


Source: USDA Economic Research Service using data from Congressional Budget Office, Cost Estimates for the Agricultural Act of 2014, Jan 2014.



Estimated Federal Outlays (FY2017-2026)

CBO August 2016 Baseline (in billions)



NOTE: total outlays from FY2017 to FY2026—\$53.148 trillion—excludes offsetting receipts of \$2.918 trillion.



IMPACT OF HUNGER

- **Loss of Economic Productivity**
- **Poor Education Outcomes**
- **Increased Costs for Public Education**
- **Avoidable Health Care Costs**

Source: USDA



Overview

- ❖ Over 12% of households in the U.S. report some level of food insecurity; highest rates are in rural America.
- ❖ Over one-third of adults (34.9%) and approximately 17% of children in the U.S. are clinically obese.
- ❖ FNS works to end food insecurity and obesity through the administration of 15 federal nutrition assistance programs including WIC, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and school meals.
- ❖ In partnership with state and tribal governments, FNS programs serve 1 in 4 Americans during the course of a year.



Overview

Recent Gallup poll results:

“...among Americans making \$30,000 or less a year, 67% worry “a great deal” about hunger and homelessness...up from 52% in 2001/2004; up from 56% in 2007/2008; and up from 51% in 2010/2011.”



THE COST OF HUNGER

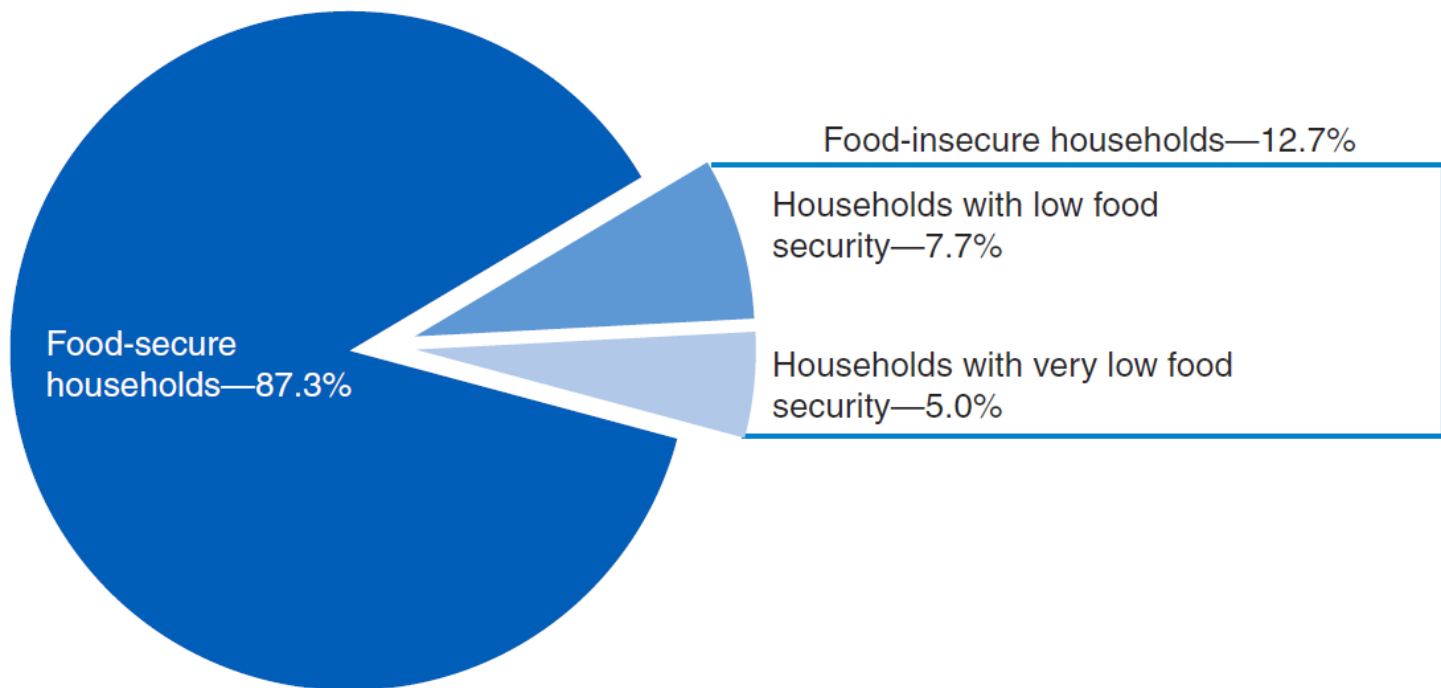
- **\$130.5 billion:** Illness costs linked to hunger and food insecurity in America
- **\$19.2 billion:** Value of poor education outcomes & lower lifetime earnings linked to hunger and food insecurity in America
- **\$17.8 billion:** Value of charitable contributions to address hunger and food insecurity in America

Source: Center for American Progress



Overview

Figure 1
U.S. households by food security status, 2015



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.



About SNAP

1. Nearly two-thirds of those who receive SNAP benefits are children (44%), seniors (11%) and people with disabilities (10%). About 90 percent of SNAP beneficiaries are households with incomes below the poverty line.
2. Average SNAP benefit in FY 2015 was about \$125 per person per month.
3. Majority of recipients already work or not expected to work because of age or disability.



About SNAP

Are
veterans
on
SNAP?



About SNAP

Between 2011 and 2013, SNAP
HHs included roughly
1.7 million vets



About SNAP

When SNAP benefits are added to gross income, what percentage of SNAP households move above the poverty line?



About SNAP

ANSWER:

When SNAP benefits are added to gross income, 10% of SNAP households move above the poverty line.



About SNAP

SNAP participation reduces likelihood of food insecurity by 5-30% and likelihood of very low food insecurity by 5-20%.



About SNAP

For each \$1 billion in SNAP benefits, how many full-time jobs are created?



About SNAP

ANSWER:

Each \$1 billion increase in SNAP benefits is estimated to create or maintain 8,900 - 17,900 full-time equivalent jobs, including 3,000 farm jobs.



About SNAP

SNAP puts money back into the economy. Every \$1 in new SNAP benefits generates up to \$1.80 in total economic impact.



About SNAP

How Many SNAP participants had jobs?



About SNAP

ANSWER: 32% of SNAP households – and 55% of households with children – had earnings in 2015. Overall, 44 percent of SNAP participants lived in a household with earnings.



About SNAP

**What is the average
monthly benefit for a
household?**



About SNAP

ANSWER:

The average SNAP household received \$254 in monthly benefits.



About SNAP

What's the average size of a
SNAP Household?

Don't people on SNAP have
lots of kids?



About SNAP

ANSWER:

53% of SNAP households contained only one person. Average SNAP household size was 2.0 persons.



About SNAP

Aren't a lot of people on SNAP
also on welfare?
What percentage?



About SNAP

ANSWER: In 1990, 42% of all SNAP households received cash welfare benefits and less than 20% had earnings.

In 2015, less than 6% received cash welfare, while 32% had earnings.



About SNAP

Other myths or
misperceptions...What are you
hearing?



Wisconsin

- 1. Per FRAC Food Insecurity Report, Wisconsin ranks 44th in food hardship with a 12% food insecurity rate for 2015.**
- 2. Several metro areas in Midwest in top 50 for high food insecurity rates (none in Wisconsin):**
 - 1. Youngstown (22.3%, 7th)**
 - 2. Dayton (21.7%, 11th)**
 - 3. Detroit (17.9%, 34th)**
 - 4. Toledo (17.7%, 36th)**
 - 5. Indianapolis (17.2%, 43rd)**
 - 6. Cincinnati (17.2%, 43rd)**
 - 7. Cleveland (16.8%, 48th)**



Wisconsin

Per FRAC Food Insecurity Report, Food Hardship for 2014-2015:

1. Madison (10.2%, 108th)
2. Milwaukee (15%, 74th)



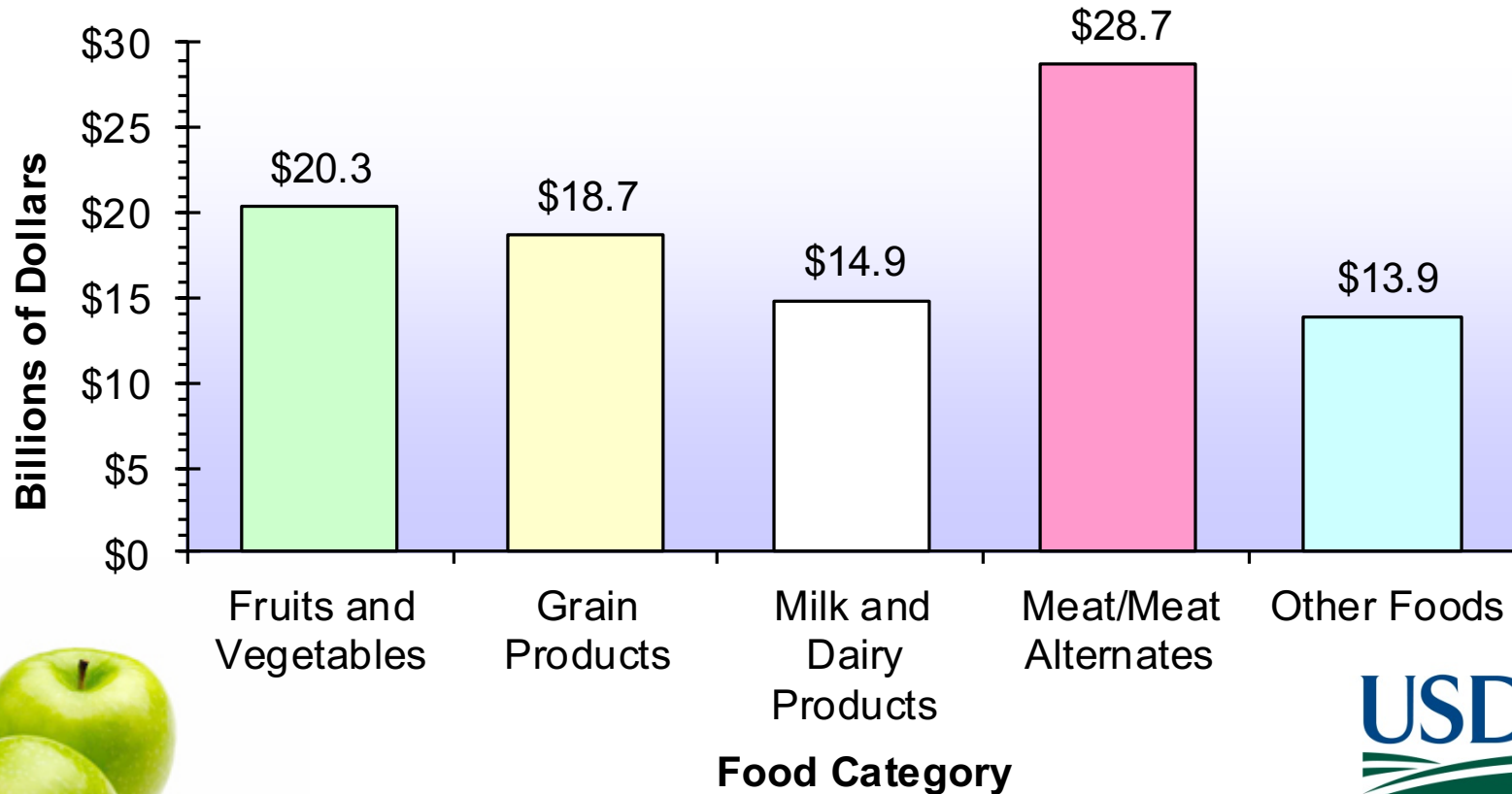
Wisconsin Data

- 1. SNAP participation rate (FY 14)
= 100% (U.S. = 83%)**
- 1. Persons Participating:**
 - 1. FY 15 = 805,540/month**
 - 2. FY 17 to-date = 704,460/month**
- 2. Avg HH Benefit = \$213/Month**
- 3. Value of Benefits:**
 - 1. FY 15 = \$1.05 billion**
 - 2. FY 16 = \$922 million**



Programs Provide Significant Support for Food Markets

Nutrition Assistance Program Support for Food Markets, 2015 (estimate)



FNS Program Accomplishments: Nutrition Outcomes

- Gap between nutrient intakes of lower & higher-income groups has virtually disappeared.
- SNAP increases household food expenditures & nutrient availability.
- WIC participation leads to better pregnancy outcomes – fewer infant deaths, fewer premature births, & increased birth weights.
- School meal participants consume more food energy & key vitamins & minerals.



Regional Partnerships

- GoodGreens
- Farmers Markets



Hunger As a Health Issue

- ProMedica Model
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Wholesome Wave & FINI
- USDA Health Care Partners Network
- Root Cause Coalition



Regional Models

- Experimental Station
- Fair Food Network
- Top Box Foods
- Chicago Botanic Garden/Growing Power/Growing Home



SNAP Local Resources

SNAP benefits can be used at authorized farmers' markets

- ❖ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ebt/learn-about-snap-benefits-farmers-markets>

SNAP application and local office finder

- ❖ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/map.htm>



Resources

Hunger hotline: 1-866-3-HUNGRY

SFSP resources: www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks

FNS website: www.fns.usda.gov

FNS regional office contact information:
www.fns.usda.gov/fns-regional-offices





Questions?



For More Information

visit our website at:

www.fns.usda.gov

Or email:

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