



# 2023 STATE BUDGET PRIORITY:

## A SNAPshot of Food Assistance in Michigan

### Recommendation:

In the 2023 state budget, Michigan can make the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work better for families by investing in recruiting more retailers to accept online SNAP purchases and covering shoppers' fees for home grocery delivery and curbside pickup. These measures would promote more equitable access to the healthy food we all need to thrive.

**SNAP promotes health for 1.2 million Michiganders, including:**

**1 in 5**  
children<sup>a</sup>

**41,000**  
veterans<sup>b</sup>

**10%**  
of Michigan's workforce<sup>c</sup>

Sources: <sup>a</sup> Kids Count in Michigan 2021 <sup>b</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities <sup>c</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

**SNAP is an important nutritional support in both rural and urban communities.**

Highest County Rates of SNAP Use by Families with Children	
Ogemaw 34.3%	Saginaw 28.3%
Roscommon 34.1%	Chippewa, Lake 27.8%
Wayne 33.4%	Baraga, Clare 27.5%
Genesee 31.1%	Iosco 27.4%
Alcona 29.4%	Arenac, Gladwin 25.9%

Source: [American Community Survey, 2016-2020 5-Year Estimates](#)

### Michigan Families That Use SNAP

More than



**2 in 5 include children**

More than



**1 in 3 include someone age 60 or older**

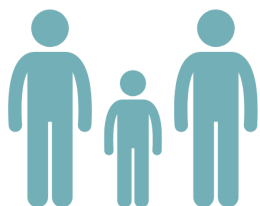
More than



**1 in 2 include someone with a disability**

**Median household income: \$21,338**

Source: [American Community Survey, 2016-2020 5-Year Estimates](#)



More than  
**3 in 4**

**Michigan families that use SNAP include at least one working adult.**

Source: [American Community Survey, 2016-2020 5-Year Estimates](#)

Common jobs for SNAP participants have low wages, unpredictable schedules, high displacement and high volatility. Workers in these jobs are disproportionately people of color and disabled people.

From 2002 to 2017, there was no growth in wages for the most common jobs among SNAP participants, while wages for the most common “middle class” jobs grew by 8%.

Source: [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

### **SNAP households and non-SNAP households spend their grocery money in similar ways.**

For every \$1 spent, both household types spend about 40 cents on basics like vegetables, milk, eggs, and bread; 40 cents on cereals, rice, and beans; and 20 cents on sweetened beverages, desserts, and salty snacks.



Vegetables, milk, eggs, and bread



Cereals, rice, and beans



Sweetened beverages, desserts, and salty snacks

### **Even with SNAP, it can be hard for families to consume healthy food.**



**Food deserts/transportation challenges:** People without access to a grocery store may have to shop at convenience stores.



**Product shortages:** Panic buying and supply chain disruptions can leave grocery store shelves bare at times.



**Health risks:** In-person shopping during a pandemic can be especially dangerous for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses.



**Time:** SNAP participants may have limited time for meal preparation.



**Storage:** To avoid waste, SNAP shoppers may choose foods with a long shelf life over perishable foods.

### **Call to Action:**

Expanding online SNAP options and covering service fees would make it easier. Additionally, incentives that preserve customer choice, like [Double Up Food Bucks](#), are more effective than purchase restrictions in encouraging participants to buy more fruits and vegetables while balancing all of their families' practical needs.