

The Impact of H.R. 1 in NYC

The Context

\$186 billion in funding was cut from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These historic cuts:

- Threaten access to over **250 million meals** a year in NYC and add to the affordability crisis.
- Affect nearly **1.7 million New York City residents** who rely on SNAP.
- Freeze the Thrifty Food Plan, the USDA's estimated cost of a healthy, low-cost diet. When updated dietary guidelines increase the cost of an adequate diet, SNAP benefits will no longer increase in response, potentially reducing the real value of benefits by about **\$14 per person per month**.
- Will add **millions to New York City and State budgets** as administration costs shift from federal government to local.

“

Even with SNAP, it's a struggle. Every month, I'm wondering if this is the month that I'm going to get cut off because I physically can't do what they want you to do... It's hard, and it's something you shouldn't have to face. ”

Veronica
Participant at City Harvest's Melrose
Mobile Market® in the South Bronx

The Impact So Far

155,000, or 8.7%, fewer New Yorkers enrolled in SNAP

A measurable share of SNAP losses was a direct result of H.R. 1 program changes. Research consistently shows that increasing administrative burdens in SNAP, including additional reporting and work-reporting requirements, can reduce participation among otherwise eligible households (*American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2023).

26,500 New Yorkers lost SNAP due to new work-reporting requirements

New requirements impose time limits and additional work-reporting on previously exempt groups, including older adults, families with teens, homeless individuals, veterans, and more (*data provided in consultation with OTDA and HRA*).

12,000 New Yorkers estimated to lose SNAP due to immigration status

H.R. 1 ended SNAP eligibility for many legal refugees and asylees, who will lose benefits as they recertify through April 2027 (*unofficial data provided in consultation with OTDA*).

\$36 million lost in monthly economic activity in NYC

SNAP is an important economic driver, with every \$1 in SNAP benefits generating \$1.50 in activity at local supermarkets and bodegas (USDA).

What's Next

October 1, 2026

- The **cost for SNAP administration** (for example, keeping the lights on in Human Resources Administration offices) will shift from the federal government to New York City, creating a **\$111 million hole in the city budget annually**.
- New Yorkers who lost SNAP benefits due to **work-reporting requirements** implemented in March will be **eligible to reapply**.

October 1, 2027

- **New York State will be required to share the cost of SNAP benefits** with the federal government for the first time ever, potentially costing **\$1.2 billion annually**.

How to Mitigate the Impact

Advocacy



Priority focus: delaying SNAP benefit cost shifts at the federal level, increasing investments in emergency food programs at the city and state levels, expanding Food Is Medicine partnerships

Legislative opportunities: Farm Bill and appropriations are opportunities for cost shift delays. Extending New York State's 1115 Medicaid waivers creates opportunities to fund Food Is Medicine efforts. Restoring the National Food Security Report, a critical tool to understand the depth of food insecurity in New York and across the country, and sharing the impact of H.R. 1 are critical tools for driving policy change.

Increased Food Distribution



City Harvest is scaling up our food rescue and delivery operations with a focus on high-need and impacted areas, and **will provide 100 million pounds of food** to New Yorkers in need this year, which is **11% more than last year**.

“

These changes create greater financial and operational strain while threatening the food security, health, and stability of Bronx families, seniors, and other vulnerable residents.

”

Power Praise & Deliverance Ministries
Bronx Food Pantry



To learn more, visit cityharvest.org or contact Jerome Nathaniel, Director of Policy & Advocacy, at jnathaniel@cityharvest.org.