



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, March 9, 2025

For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Something to Eat (Mt 25:35)

“SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is the nation’s first line of defense against hunger for people with low incomes. This federal program provides benefits to eligible people to purchase food at grocery stores, supermarkets, farmers’ markets, and other SNAP-authorized retailers.” (*Food Research and Action Center, FRAC*, 2/21/25*)

“SNAP is proven to reduce hunger, improve overall health outcomes, and reduce health care costs. **Any cuts to SNAP would do particular harm to children, older adults, and people with disabilities, who make up the majority of SNAP households.**

Proposals to reduce SNAP benefits would increase food insecurity and shift the burden to local governments and charities — who cannot fill the gap. It would also harm local economies, particularly in rural and under-resourced areas....

Families removed from SNAP as a result of any cuts would lose their direct link to free school meals and the Summer EBT Program, which provides families with critical funds to keep hunger at bay during the summer months.

School meals are one of the healthiest sources of food for children and are often a primary source of nutrition for children residing in households with low incomes. The proposed cuts to school meals would result in large numbers of children losing access to the nutrition they need to succeed in the classroom, place an additional financial burden on families already struggling with expensive grocery bills, and significantly increase the administrative burden on schools that operate the programs.” (Crystal FitzSimons, interim president, FRAC, 2/14/25)

“**Could you get the nutrition you need on just \$6 a day?** That is the daily reality for more than 42 million people across the country who rely on SNAP.” (FRAC, 2/21/25) In Pennsylvania, the number is 2,010,298, and in Philadelphia, around half a million individuals — more than 20% of households — are SNAP participants. Yet some in Congress want to cut SNAP benefits by \$230 billion over 10 years (Katie Bergh, *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2/24/25*).

[Click here to urge legislators to vote against SNAP cuts.](#) “Hunger and poverty aren’t going to stop because you cut a program,” said FRAC SNAP Deputy Director Gina Plata-Nino (*The Guardian, 2/27/25*). **And for more local action, remember to donate to our own Holy Cross Food Pantry.** You can also donate to other food banks in Philadelphia such as Philabundance and Share Food Program. It’s an investment worth making!

*The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) improves the nutrition, health, and well-being of people struggling against poverty-related hunger in the United States through advocacy, partnerships, and by advancing bold and equitable policy solutions.

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org. [Click here for column archive.](#)