



# United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service

## *Helping Low-Income Families and Local Communities in Pennsylvania*

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers nutrition benefits to participating clients, supports work, and provides economic benefits to communities. The SNAP brings Federal dollars into communities in the form of benefits which are redeemed by SNAP participants at local food stores. Increasing SNAP participation provides an immediate stimulus to local economies.

### **Increase in SNAP Participation Creates Substantial Economic Benefits**

Every \$5 in new SNAP benefits generates \$9.00 in total community spending.

The FY 2011 average monthly SNAP benefit was about \$270.45 per household, which is spent in local food stores.

### **FY 2009 SNAP Participation Data**

Total Eligible Participants	1,549,000	Actual Participants	1,286,000
Eligible Non-Participants	263,000	Participation Rate	83
Total Benefits Disbursed	1,900,787,569	Total Economic Activity	3,421,417,624
Additional Benefits with Full Participation	8,089,880	Additional Economic Activity with Full Participation	14,561,784

Because the majority of SNAP benefits are redeemed the month they are issued, SNAP acts as an immediate economic stimulus to struggling local economies. New SNAP benefits also generate additional economic activity as families are able to increase their overall food purchasing power.

#### **5% Participation Increase**

Total Participants	1,363,000	Participation Rate	88
Additional Benefits	28,600,000	Additional Economic Activity	51,500,000

#### **10% Participation Increase**

Total Participants	667,000	Participation Rate	93
Additional Benefits	57,200,000	Additional Economic Activity	103,000,000

#### **15% Participation Increase**

Total Participants	1,517,000	Participation Rate	98
Additional Benefits	85,800,000	Additional Economic Activity	154,500,000

#### **Notes:**

1. These estimates utilize the SNAP multiplier to develop and approximate the total economic activity resulting from existing benefit distribution. The true value is unknown.
2. The number of participants, eligibles, and participation rate in each State as reported in *Reaching those in Need: State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates in 2009*.
3. Sum of rows may not equal total due to rounding.

*FNS strongly urges States, local government leaders, neighborhood and faith-based leaders, and others to conduct SNAP outreach. For more information on how you can help, please contact your FNS regional office at 609-259-5025 or the Office of Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships and Outreach at [partnerships@fns.usda.gov](mailto:partnerships@fns.usda.gov).*