USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

50 YEARS OF SNAP

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1939

Mrs. Mabel McFiggan is the first person to stand in line to make a food stamp purchase.

1961

President Kennedy signs his first Executive Order which initiates the food stamp pilot programs.

1964

President Johnson makes the Food Stamp Program permanent by signing the Food Stamp Act.

1974

The Food Stamp Program expands to all 50 states and territories.

1977

President Carter signed the Food Stamp Act establishing national standards of eligibility and eliminating the purchase requirements.

1984

Payment using Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) begins with the first EBT transaction purchase in Reading, PA.

2004

EBT use is adopted nationwide.

2008

The Food Stamp Program is renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

KEY RESULTS

5 MILLION

According to the Census Bureau, SNAP lifted 5 million Americans, including 2.2 million children out of poverty in 2012.

96.8%

In 2013, SNAP payment accuracy was 96.8%, a historic high.

$1=$1.80

SNAP generates $1.80 in economic activity for every $1 in new SNAP benefits.

UP TO 10%

Participating in SNAP for 6 months decreased food insecurity up to 10%, including households with children.

Food and Nutrition Service
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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.