



COLORADO CENTER
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Justice and Economic Security for all Coloradans

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Supporting families and jobs in Colorado

FACT SHEET
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**As of February 2013,
more than 500,000
Coloradans were
enrolled in the
Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program.¹**

The Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as the food stamp program) provides vital assistance to thousands of families throughout Colorado. SNAP is also a form of indirect economic stimulus. SNAP benefits are spent at grocery stores, supermarkets, superstores and farmer's markets across Colorado. In fact, in 2010 SNAP spending in Colorado supported roughly 15,000 jobs and produced more than \$1.2 billion in economic output, according to CCLP estimates.

SNAP spending stimulates the economy and supports thousands of jobs

Using IMPLAN economic modeling² software CCLP estimates that SNAP spending in Colorado supported roughly 15,000 jobs in 2010. These jobs manifest in a variety of workplaces, but the bulk of the jobs are in retail food stores, such as grocery stores and supermarkets. However, as the economy reacts to this spending, jobs are created in other sectors such as the wholesale trade sector, the building maintenance and repair sector and real estate, to name a few.

In 2010, SNAP spending in Colorado totaled \$687,709,379³. This spending catalyzed more than \$1.2 billion dollars in economic output meaning that every \$1 spent in Colorado created \$1.70 of economic activity.

Cutting SNAP benefits: A dangerous path to deficit reduction

The SNAP provides critical support for thousands of men, women and children across Colorado. SNAP spending is also a powerful driver of the Colorado economy spurring economic activity and creating thousands of jobs. To cut the SNAP program is to put thousands of families at risk of hunger and threaten thousands of jobs across the state. Reducing SNAP spending is a lose-lose public policy.

Methodology

CCLP's economic estimates are derived from IMPLAN input/output economic modeling software. The two primary inputs involved are total SNAP spending in Colorado, which is available from the United States Department of Agriculture,⁴ and approximations of how SNAP recipients spend their benefits. Using a USDA report, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that over 80 percent of all SNAP benefits are spent in "superstores (such as warehouse clubs and big-box retailers), supermarkets, and grocery stores."⁵ The economic impact calculated by IMPLAN represents the direct, indirect and

induced effects of this spending in the several different sectors in which SNAP recipients spend their benefit. The total economic impact is expressed in terms of jobs supported by this spending and the total economic output created by this spending.

¹ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/29SNAPcurrPP.htm>

² IMPLAN is input/output modeling software. This software is capable of estimating the impact of large scale spending (such as SNAP benefits) and can estimate the direct, indirect and induced effects of such spending. To find out more on IMPLAN software visit this link: https://implan.com/v4/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=282:what-is-implan&catid=152:implan-appliance-&Itemid=2

³ USDA: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/17SNAPfyBEN\\$.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/17SNAPfyBEN$.htm)

⁴ USDA: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/17SNAPfyBEN\\$.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/17SNAPfyBEN$.htm)

⁵ <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3744>