Impact of Federal SNAP Changes on NH

ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT CUTS

Legal immigrant families cut from SNAP: Most immigrant families with humanitarian protections cut from SNAP (Undocumented immigrants were never eligible).

Work Rules: Adults ages 18-65 (previously 18-55) burdened with heavy paperwork requirements.

- Exemptions removed for:
  - Families with children over 14,
  - Former foster youth,
  - Veterans, and
  - Unhoused people.

Child Nutrition: Losing SNAP access automatically cuts children off from direct enrollment in free/reduced school meals and Summer EBT.



COSTS SHIFTED TO NEW HAMPSHIRE

Oct. 1st, 2026

$4.5-6M per year

New SNAP Administrative Costs

Oct. 1st, 2027

$15M per year

SNAP Benefits Penalties

State must fund 10% of total food benefit costs if error rate stays above 6% (2025 NH error rate= 8.85%).

New SNAP costs for NH:
$19-21M

SNAP is critical to the health of our state.

NH HUNGER SOLUTIONS
ENDING HUNGER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

SNAP ERROR RATES

Error rates measure whether households receive the correct amount of SNAP benefits. Both overpayments *and* underpayments count toward the error rate.

SNAP Quality Control Works. The tracking of these errors proves that federal and state quality-control and oversight systems are actively working.

What drives up error rates?

- **Increasing complexity** in the program,
- **More** recipient reporting **requirements**
- **Rapid implementation of changes** (like H.R. 1)
- **New** program **software**
- **Caseworker shortages**
- **Increasing verification** requirements

Overpayments + Underpayments

benefits issued ***above*** *the eligible amount*

benefits issued ***below*** *the eligible amount*

= State Error Rate

(≥6% triggers federal penalties)

What's Happening?

- Based on NH's 8.85% (FY 2025) error rate, NH will be saddled with $15M in SNAP benefit costs per year starting October 1, 2027
- NH has demonstrated its ability to lower error rates – the state already brought errors down from 12.53% in FY2023.
- The uptick in 2025 was a predictable response to the changes required to be implemented quickly in H.R. 1

The Solution

Invest in Outreach: Funding robust SNAP outreach helps to guide families through applications and reporting; lowers error rates and protects state funds from federal penalties.

Keep SNAP Accessible:

- Preserve simplified eligibility
- Avoid asset tests
- Streamline reporting rules
- Modernize NH EASY
- Fund community-based application assistors to guide families through complex intake.