

DID YOU KNOW ...

NC SNAP DATA SHOWS DECREASE IN ENROLLMENT, HURTING KIDS

September 2026

North Carolina's SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) enrollment dropped by 110,129 people between late 2025 and 2026 **due to federal spending cuts and expanded work requirements**. State participation fell by 12.2% between July 2025 and spring 2026.

KEY DATA POINTS

Current Enrollment Drop: State administrative data shows a net loss of over 110,000 beneficiaries since September 2025.

Overall At-Risk Population: Advocates and state health officials estimate that tighter income limits, administrative error-rate rules, and expanded work requirements will put up to 1.4 million North Carolinians at risk of losing or seeing reduced SNAP benefits long-term.

Impact on Children: Children historically make up roughly half of North Carolina's SNAP recipients, and researchers estimate tens of thousands of children are among those who lost coverage as household eligibility collapsed.

Policy analysts attribute the drop to mandatory work-reporting mandates and administrative recertification barriers rather than a decline in economic need, which has driven a 20% to 25% increase in demand at local food banks across the state.

OBSERVATIONS

- Since the implementation of funding cuts embedded in the One Big Beautiful Bill are evolving as the states begin to make decisions dictated by federal revenue shortfalls and new operating rules, the data presented above are estimates that will not be fully understood until sometime in 2027. It is a deliberate attempt by Republicans to get past the November elections before the majority of voters are fully aware of OBBB's consequences.
- It is likely the number of people losing SNAP will grow substantially as the full weight of OBBB is fully implemented. If the number of children affected stays at or near 50% going forward, the impact will be catastrophic.
- We should not expect the NC Republican-controlled General Assembly to step up to fill the vacuum created by OBBB. NC citizens will need help with the loss of Medicaid and ACA subsidies.
- Private humanitarian relief agencies (sometimes called NGOs) will attempt to fill the gap. But, we should assume their bandwidth might not have the elasticity to meet the growing demand.

Please vote for the entire Democratic ballot on November 3. That will be a start.