

# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

An overview of the program, key facts and figures and its administrative structure

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**Producer**

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# Overview of SNAP

**Snap provides important nutritional support for low-wage working families, low-income seniors and people with disabilities living on fixed incomes**

## Background of SNAP

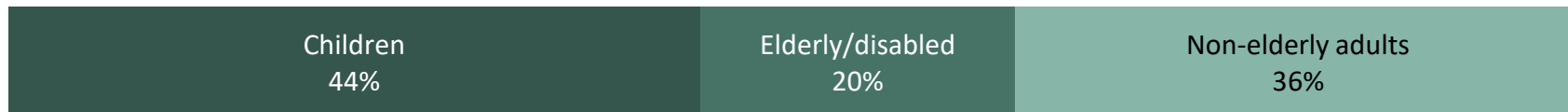
- Allows over 40 million low-income Americans to purchase groceries each month using food stamps
- Every five years, SNAP is reauthorized by Congress as part of the Farm Bill, which is set to expire September 30, 2018
- SNAP was last reauthorized as part of the 2014 Farm Bill and is currently funded at \$82 billion
- After unemployment insurance, SNAP is the most responsive federal program that provides additional assistance during economic downturns

## How SNAP works

- SNAP benefits are based on the Thrifty Food Plan, a minimal cost food plan that reflects current nutrition standards and guidance
- SNAP benefits are designed to be a supplement to food purchases made with a household's own income
- Recipients receive monthly benefit allotments in the form of electronic debit cards (also known as EBT), which they may only use for the purchase of food items at supermarkets, convenience stores and farmers markets

## Breakdown of SNAP beneficiaries

PERCENTAGE OF BENEFICIARIES, FY 2017



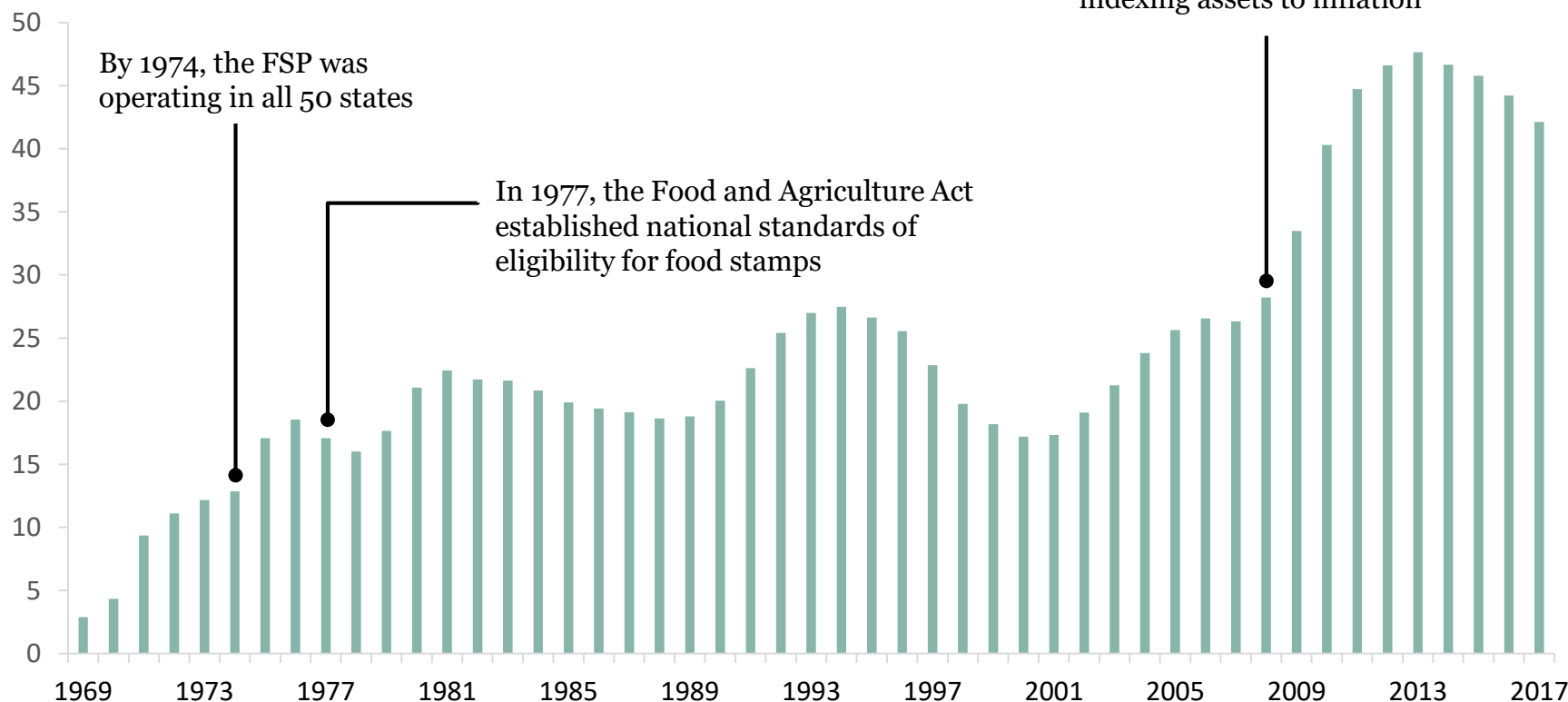
Sources: Eryn Hurley, "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) reauthorization and Appropriations," National Association of Counties, March 13, 2018; "Policy Basics: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Feb 13, 2018; "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)," USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Nov 28, 2017; "What is SNAP?" Peter G. Peterson Foundation, Sep 28, 2017.

# SNAP serves 42 million Americans

**SNAP (called the national Food Stamp Program – FSP – until 2008) was formally established in 1964 by the Food Stamp Act**

## SNAP participation

MILLIONS OF RECIPIENTS, 1969-2017



Sources: "Policy Basics: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Feb 13, 2018; "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)," USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Nov 28, 2017.

# SNAP eligibility rules and benefits are set at the federal level, though states have flexibility to tailor aspects of the program

In general, there are two paths for SNAP eligibility

## “Categorical eligibility”

- This category encompasses the majority of participants
- Participants in this category automatically qualify for SNAP benefits based on their participation in other federal or state programs, namely TANF and SSI

*\*Most households that qualify for categorical eligibility would also meet the federal income and asset eligibility requirements*

## Income & asset-based eligibility

Households that are not categorically eligible can qualify if they meet certain income and asset tests:

- *Gross monthly income* must be at or below 130% of the poverty line
- *Net monthly income* must be less than or equal to the poverty line
- *Assets* must fall below certain limits — in FY 2018 those limits are \$2,250 for households without an elderly or disabled member and \$3,500 for those with an elderly or disabled member

## SNAP income eligibility limits

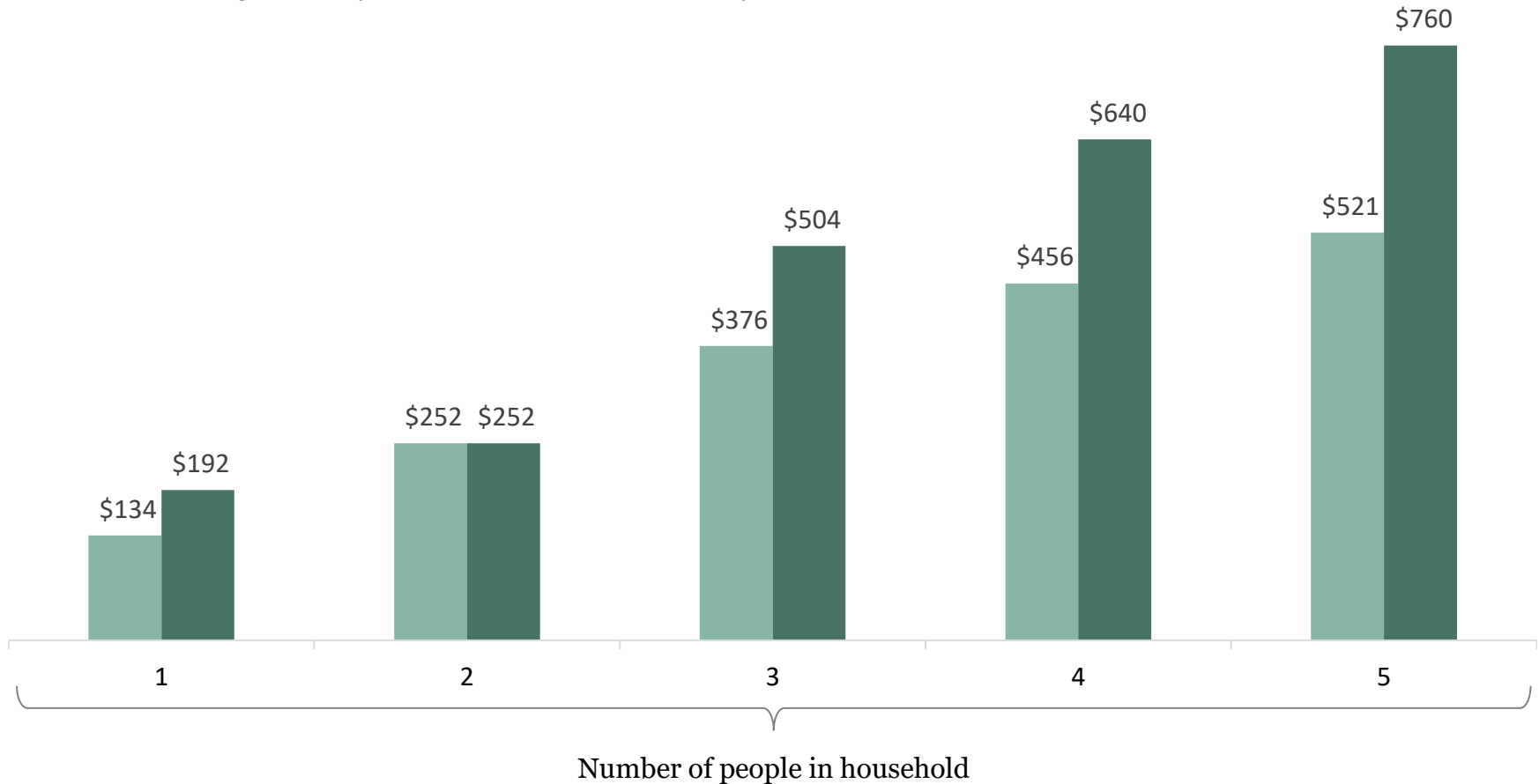
(Oct. 1, 2017 – Sept. 30, 2018)

Household size	Gross monthly income	Net monthly income
1	\$1,307	\$ 1,005
2	\$1,760	\$1,354
3	\$2,213	\$1,702
4	\$2,665	\$2,050
5	\$3,118	\$2,399
6	\$3,571	\$2,747
7	\$4,024	\$3,095
8	\$4,477	\$3,444

# SNAP benefits vary by household size

## SNAP benefit by household size, FY 2018

■ Estimated average monthly benefit   ■ Maximum monthly benefit



Sources: "Policy Basics: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Feb 13, 2018; "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)," USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Nov 28, 2017.

# Administering & financing SNAP: a federal-state partnership

## Funding source

### Federal Government

- The federal government pays the full cost of SNAP benefits
- The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an arm of the USDA, manages funds

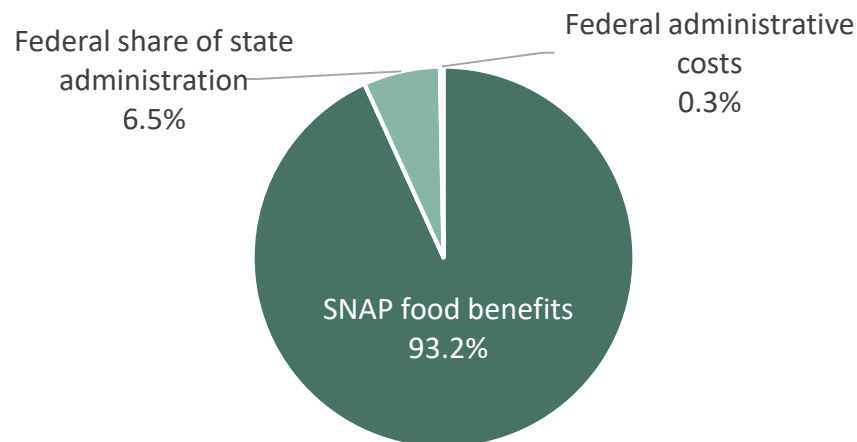
## Administering SNAP

### States & counties

- Federal SNAP funds flow into state budgets
- While broad policy guidance is provided by the FNS, day-to-day administration is carried out by states or counties, which are responsible for the certification of households and issuance of benefits

## Breakdown of Federal SNAP spending

PERCENTAGE OF FEDERAL SPENDING, FY 2017



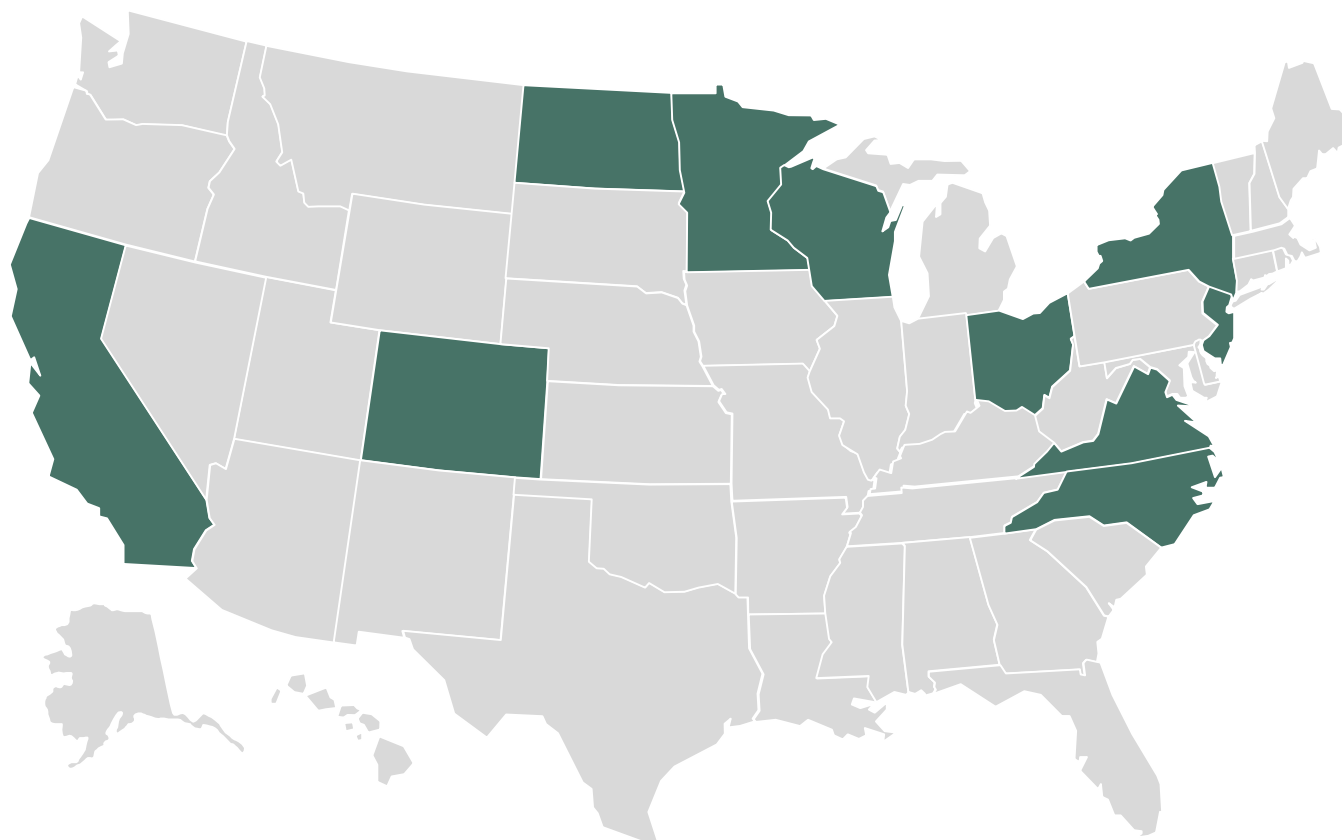
### Costs shared between USDA and States

- Administrative expenses are shared between the federal government and the states
- In some states, counties also contribute to the state share of SNAP administrative expenses

Sources: "Building a Health America: A Profile of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," FNS, April 2012; Eryn Hurley, "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) reauthorization and Appropriations," National Association of Counties, March 13, 2018.

# 10 states share SNAP administration with county agencies

## States that share SNAP administration with county agencies



**31%**

Of all SNAP recipients  
reside in these 10 states

1. California
2. Colorado
3. Minnesota
4. New Jersey
5. New York
6. North Carolina
7. North Dakota
8. Ohio
9. Virginia
10. Wisconsin

Sources: Eryn Hurley, "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) reauthorization and Appropriations," National Association of Counties, March 13, 2018.