

AN ESTIMATED **25,400** WEST VIRGINIANS WILL LOSE SNAP NUTRITION ASSISTANCE UNDER THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED RULE

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the cornerstone of the nation's nutrition assistance safety net. The program is effective and efficient, serving [95 percent](#) of the eligible population in West Virginia. In any given year, more than 340,000 West Virginians benefit from this vital nutrition program.

A special provision in SNAP called broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE) is at risk due to a proposed rule change by the Trump Administration. Without BBCE, approximately [3.1 million](#) people across the country will lose access to food assistance and more than 500,000 children will lose free school meals. **This includes an estimated 25,400 West Virginians, many of whom are children, seniors, and those with disabilities.**

What is Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility?

Broad-based categorical eligibility is a provision in SNAP that gives states the flexibility they need to administer the program in a way that maximizes efficiency. BBCE allows states to adjust income eligibility limits so that low-income families who have difficulty covering expenses like child care or housing can receive help putting food on the table. 42 states, including West Virginia, utilize BBCE to make SNAP work better for the state and its residents.

Through these provisions, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) is able to extend gross income limits from 130% of poverty to the maximum allowable 200%. It also relaxes asset limit tests that discourage program participants from saving for a rainy day. Such rules help mitigate [the cliff effect](#) that low-income families face when they suddenly lose access to the SNAP food budget they rely on to make ends meet due to slight changes in their household budgets.

BBCE reduces the state costs of administering SNAP

The impacts on DHHR will be significant. Nationally, the rule is expected increase federal and state administrative costs by \$2.3 billion a year and increase inefficiencies in service delivery. Reorganizing eligibility standards will require significant internal changes to the SNAP application process and increase burdens on local county staff, creating delays in benefit approval for those households that do qualify for food assistance. Mississippi's Department of Human Services estimates that eliminating BBCE would cost the state \$1.5 million to implement.

BBCE brings dollars to local grocers, retailers, and our economy

WVU's Food Justice Lab estimates that the net loss of federal SNAP dollars through the elimination of BBCE would total nearly \$20 million per year. That is \$20 million no longer flowing into our local grocers and retailers.

The sudden loss of access to vital food resources will increase pressure on the state's charitable food infrastructure which is already underfunded and stretched thin.

Estimated Impacts by County

Estimated Impacts of SNAP Broad Based Categorical Eligibility Rule in West Virginia							
FJL Food Justice Lab	FY 2019					BBCE Rule Impacts	
	Cases	Adults	Children	Total Recipients	Yearly Disbursement	Impacted Individuals	Yearly Dollar Impact
State Totals	190,048	182,279	99,991	282,210	\$ 386,662,200	25,399	\$ 19,333,110
BARBOUR	1,444	1,873	932	2,805	\$ 3,640,752	252	\$ 182,038
BERKELEY	6,657	7,811	6,468	14,279	\$ 20,941,332	1,285	\$ 1,047,067
BOONE	2,738	3,348	1,555	4,903	\$ 7,103,100	441	\$ 355,155
BRAXTON	1,395	1,771	811	2,582	\$ 3,361,968	232	\$ 168,098
CABELL	8,374	9,772	5,180	14,952	\$ 21,530,220	1,346	\$ 1,076,511
CALHOUN	786	1,016	341	1,357	\$ 1,533,972	122	\$ 76,699
CLAY	1,306	1,732	737	2,469	\$ 3,389,196	222	\$ 169,460
DODDRIDGE	479	616	322	938	\$ 1,145,784	84	\$ 57,289
FAYETTE	4,154	5,075	2,661	7,736	\$ 10,066,296	696	\$ 503,315
GILMER	567	750	305	1,055	\$ 1,257,216	95	\$ 62,861
GRANT	891	1,107	529	1,636	\$ 1,960,920	147	\$ 98,046
GREENBRIER	2,733	3,310	1,764	5,074	\$ 6,463,104	457	\$ 323,155
HAMPSHIRE	1,715	2,098	1,236	3,334	\$ 4,386,000	300	\$ 219,300
HANCOCK*	3,506	4,164	2,344	6,508	\$ 9,007,320	586	\$ 450,366
HARDY	1,011	1,262	822	2,084	\$ 2,641,200	188	\$ 132,060
HARRISON	4,179	5,111	3,151	8,262	\$ 11,092,992	744	\$ 554,650
JACKSON	2,346	3,004	1,634	4,638	\$ 5,853,024	417	\$ 292,651
JEFFERSON	2,494	2,866	1,958	4,824	\$ 6,794,688	434	\$ 339,734
KANAWHA	13,852	16,181	10,159	26,340	\$ 37,920,588	2,371	\$ 1,896,029
LEWIS	1,666	2,045	1,009	3,054	\$ 4,021,356	275	\$ 201,068
LINCOLN	2,811	3,550	1,653	5,203	\$ 7,333,728	468	\$ 366,686
LOGAN	4,444	5,488	2,438	7,926	\$ 11,704,080	713	\$ 585,204
MARION	4,344	5,184	3,117	8,301	\$ 11,673,960	747	\$ 583,698
MARSHALL	2,123	2,592	1,526	4,118	\$ 5,532,192	371	\$ 276,610
MASON	2,529	3,123	1,722	4,845	\$ 6,438,120	436	\$ 321,906
MCDOWELL	3,823	4,786	1,840	6,626	\$ 8,933,580	596	\$ 446,679
MERCER	7,384	8,871	4,377	13,248	\$ 18,436,572	1,192	\$ 921,829
MINERAL	1,759	2,165	1,167	3,332	\$ 4,288,512	300	\$ 214,426
MINGO	3,868	4,831	2,279	7,110	\$ 10,979,604	640	\$ 448,980
MONONGALIA	3,691	4,328	2,871	7,199	\$ 10,357,632	648	\$ 451,882
MONROE	869	1,070	548	1,618	\$ 1,958,340	146	\$ 97,917
MORGAN	1,046	1,269	771	2,040	\$ 2,758,992	184	\$ 137,950
NICHOLAS	2,798	3,532	1,501	5,033	\$ 6,399,012	453	\$ 319,951
OHIO	3,262	3,704	2,241	5,945	\$ 8,557,368	535	\$ 427,868
PENDLETON	471	615	298	913	\$ 1,094,556	82	\$ 54,728
PLEASANTS	493	611	332	943	\$ 1,240,200	85	\$ 62,010
POCAHONTAS	651	808	361	1,169	\$ 1,408,908	105	\$ 70,445
PRESTON	2,314	2,916	1,618	4,534	\$ 5,730,180	408	\$ 286,509
PUTNAM	2,741	3,337	2,209	5,546	\$ 7,153,128	499	\$ 357,656
RALEIGH	7,646	9,072	4,930	14,002	\$ 19,657,644	1,260	\$ 982,882
RANDOLPH	2,596	3,229	1,518	4,747	\$ 6,020,316	427	\$ 301,016
RITCHIE	841	1,095	557	1,652	\$ 2,095,896	149	\$ 104,795
ROANE	1,499	1,987	909	2,896	\$ 3,451,164	261	\$ 172,558
SUMMERS	1,619	1,979	868	2,847	\$ 3,628,752	256	\$ 181,438
TAYLOR	1,123	1,369	775	2,144	\$ 2,714,616	193	\$ 135,731
TUCKER	479	587	265	852	\$ 908,712	77	\$ 45,436
TYLER	638	805	373	1,178	\$ 1,483,848	106	\$ 74,192
UPSHUR	2,230	2,789	1,714	4,503	\$ 6,204,816	405	\$ 310,241
WAYNE	4,142	5,077	2,679	7,756	\$ 10,876,644	698	\$ 543,832
WEBSTER	1,406	1,760	649	2,409	\$ 3,003,984	217	\$ 150,199
WETZEL	1,431	1,769	996	2,765	\$ 3,716,268	249	\$ 185,813
WIRT	622	791	403	1,194	\$ 1,536,216	107	\$ 76,811
WOOD	7,557	9,051	5,134	14,185	\$ 19,334,064	1,277	\$ 966,703
WYOMING	2,505	3,227	1,374	4,601	\$ 5,939,568	414	\$ 296,978

* Brooke County DHHR office merged with Hancock

Data Source: West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR)

Date: July 2019

[Public comment](#) on the [proposed rule](#) is open through September 23, 2019.