School Nutrition, SNAP, and Local Food Funding in New Hampshire

Congress and the Trump administration have cut funding for essential nutrition programs, threatening New Hampshire families and schools. The federal government has slashed funding for child nutrition and food assistance programs, taking food away from babies, toddlers, students, working families, and seniors across New Hampshire.

These programs are lifelines–fueling learning, lowering grocery bills, and supporting our local economies. **We cannot let this happen.**

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE . . .

SNAP BROUGHT MORE THAN $154 MILLION INTO THE STATE SUPPORTING:

- **25,322** children, making them automatically eligible for free school meals
- **1,063** local retailers, boosting the local economy
- **76,628** New Hampshirites, helping put food on the table
  - **45%** of households had children
  - **54%** of households had individuals with a disability
  - **39%** of households had older adults

Cuts to SNAP undermine family stability, weaken local economies, and harm children.

SOURCE: Food Research & Action Center. https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/SNAP-State-Fact-Sheets-Technical-Notes.pdf.

$897,130 **Farm-to-School grants** have brought $897,130 in funding to purchase local food and produce for schools since 2013.

Withdrawing funds allocated by Congress in 2025 denies New Hampshire the opportunity to expand projects that support healthier children and stronger local economies.

$1,743,607 was awarded to the state through the **Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program** in 2025, intended to support meals for schools and child care centers through 2028.

These funds were terminated before full disbursement.

SOURCE: National Farm to School Network. https://www.farmtoschool.org/policy/patrick-leahy-farm-to-school-grant-dashboard.

The **Community Eligibility Provision**, which provides children with free school meals, was adopted by **4** schools in the 2023–2024 academic year, reaching **727** students.

Without the Community Eligibility Provision, students may not get the nutrition they need to thrive.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Urge Your Members of Congress to . . .

- **Restore access to SNAP.** For more information, visit frac.org/action.
- **Protect and expand CEP to ensure more children benefit from free school meals.**
- **Support restored funding for Farm-to-School and LFSCC programs.** For more information, visit farmtoschool.org/policy/take-action.

PROGRAMS DEFINED

The **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** is a federal program that allows schools with high numbers of students from under-resourced families to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students, keeping students nourished and focused on learning. Schools can adopt CEP if at least 25 percent of students are identified through data-matching as participating in means-tested programs, like SNAP. Cuts to programs like SNAP and Medicaid reduce the number of children eligible for free school meals, which, in turn, threatens a school's ability to offer free meals to all students.

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** is a federal program that serves as the nation's first line of defense against hunger, helping to decrease the number of households dealing with food insecurity. Because eligibility is directly linked to the number of students enrolled in programs like SNAP and Medicaid, cuts would jeopardize schools' ability to offer free school meals through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Farm-to-School Funding supports schools in purchasing food and produce from local farmers and ranchers, integrating nutrition education, and incorporating garden activities into meal programs to promote healthy eating.

SCAN ME FOR INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON NUTRITION FUNDING IN YOUR STATE.

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