

“Let All Who Are Hungry Come And Eat!”

Four Questions About Cuts to SNAP Benefits

passover seder supplement 5786/2026

For many Jewish families today, Passover is all about the food - the delicious meal we are sitting down to on seder night. But as we tell the story of our enslavement in Egypt, the Haggadah invokes our experience as poor slaves in Egypt, and calls us not to look away from those who are in need today. “This is the bread of poverty and affliction that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt,” we say as we lift up the matzah. “Let all who are hungry come and eat!”

Across our country today, millions of Americans struggle to put enough nutritious food on the table. And a crisis is coming in 2027 for the 4 million people in our country who rely on SNAP benefits to cover their monthly grocery bill, as a result of the federal government’s July 2026 budget.

1. What changes were made to SNAP benefits?

Federal funding for SNAP was cut by \$187 billion through 2034 by the federal budget passed in July 2026. The federal government spends \$350 million per month, or \$4.2 billion a year on SNAP benefits for Pennsylvanians, which comes down to \$11.4 million per month, or \$137 million per year for Montgomery County.¹

administrative costs on states

States will now have to pay for 75% of the administrative expenses for SNAP, up from the previous 50/50 split with the federal government. This will cost PA DHS about \$120 million each year.²

¹ PA DHS. (2026, March 5). *SNAP enrollment as of January 2026 county view*. <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/data-reports#snap>

“error rate” liability

Federal audits calculate states’ “error rates” for SNAP payouts. These typically reflect incomplete paperwork or miscalculations, not fraud. Now, new rules about error rates could cost Pennsylvania \$4.4 billion, a cost that “the governor has been very clear that that is not a sum of money we could backfill,”...and may result in the commonwealth leaving the SNAP program entirely.¹

2. How many of our neighbors in Montgomery County will these changes impact?

In Montgomery County, 58,758 people rely on SNAP, which is about 7% of the county’s population. In Pennsylvania, 1.8 million people, or about 14% of the state’s population rely on SNAP.²

3. How can we make a difference when the problem is SO enormous?

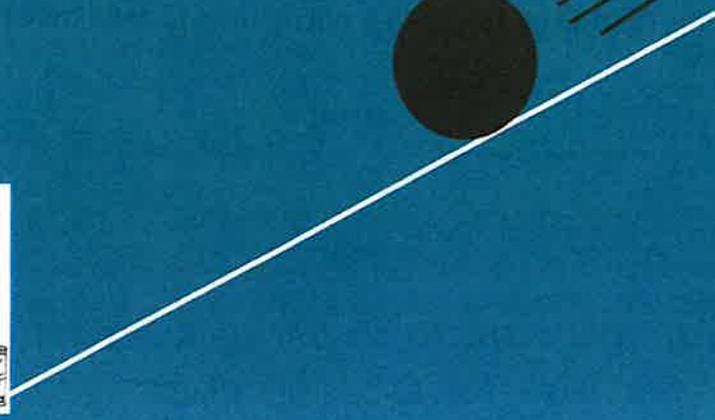
The cuts to SNAP benefits were a decision made by our federal government, but pushing back against them begins right here in our county.

The first illustration below shows how decisions at the federal level are making their way down to impact local resources we rely on - like a boulder rolling down a hill toward our local food banks. The second illustration, though, reminds us of all the levels of decision makers between us and the federal government. We believe that by starting with MontCo and building up, over time we can work with enough people to build enough power to push the boulder all the way back up the hill, keeping it far away from hitting us and the publicly funded resources and services we rely on.

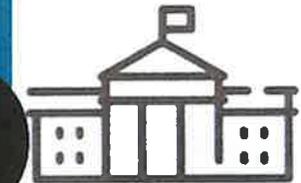
Our campaign is just the beginning of building up enough power over time to impact policy decisions at the county, state, and federal level.

² PA DHS. (2026, March 5). *SNAP enrollment as of January 2026 county view*. <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/data-reports#snap>

The Food Bank and the **BOULDER**



PUSHING the Boulder



Congress
Governor
PA General Assembly
County Commissioners
MontCo Food Policy Council
Executive Director

4. We already support local charities that feed people. Why do we need government support to fight hunger as well?

For people facing food insecurity, 9 out of 10 meals they are able to access from a food assistance resource comes from SNAP benefits, whereas 1 out of 10 comes from a food bank or food pantry.³ Our food pantries cannot make up for the SNAP gap alone.

We are commanded in the Talmud to establish a public fund to feed the hungry in each community where we live.⁴

wondering what you can do to protect SNAP benefits?

Join Us!

RAC-PA MontCo Campaign to Protect SNAP Benefits



**fill out this form to get involved
and learn more!**

<https://forms.office.com/r/gR5ZunfgdJ>



**make a donation to RAC-PA
to help sustain this campaign**

www.rac.org/GivePA

³ USDA Economic Research Service. (2026, January 12). *FoodAPS national household food acquisition and purchase survey-summary findings*.

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/foodaps-national-household-food-acquisition-and-purchase-survey/summary-findings>.

⁴ Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. (2026). *Hunger: Introduction to Jewish values*.

<https://rac.org/hunger-introduction-jewish-values>.