

ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AMONG VETERANS

Many veterans face food insecurity without the help from the country they served — in part due to stigma, shame, and lack of information about federal nutrition programs.

A recent study showed that only 1 out of 3 eligible veterans participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps). Additional research shows particularly high rates of food insecurity among post-9/11 veterans, Black and other veterans of color, and women veterans.

Enrolling eligible veterans in programs like SNAP helps prevent costly diet-related chronic health conditions and heads off a **cycle of economic hardship that can lead to a downward spiral for veterans**, sometimes tragically resulting in homelessness and even suicide.

Efforts to cut and restrict SNAP for so-called “Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents” (ABAWDs), would have a harmful impact on America’s veterans, who often face unique challenges in securing and maintaining full-time work. **Imposing harsher SNAP work requirements will not improve employment outcomes — it will increase hunger and hardship for struggling veterans.**



The Farm Bill should:

- ✓ Lower the VA disability rating required for veterans to be considered as disabled for SNAP purposes;
- ✓ Support veteran access to affordable healthy foods and expand veterans farmers market nutrition programs through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP); and
- ✓ Expand the veteran food security grant program open to states, tribal nations, and territories, and formalize the establishment of the Office of Veteran Food Security at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs with mandated reporting and interagency coordination.



MORE THAN
1 MILLION

low-income veterans receive vital nutrition assistance from SNAP each year, but millions more struggle without the help they need and deserve

ABOUT
7%



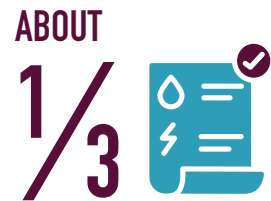
of veterans lived in households that received SNAP before COVID-19



HOUSEHOLDS THAT INCLUDE A VETERAN WITH A DISABILITY ARE NEARLY TWICE AS LIKELY TO LACK ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD.



of veteran job seekers are underemployed — which is over 15% higher than non-veteran job seekers



of veterans say they had trouble paying the bills after leaving the military



“I was dropped from SNAP because of the time limit, even though I had a disability. I served my country and I’ve worked my whole life. After being hurt at work 3 years ago and after completing all measures included in the worker’s compensation process, I found myself homeless and unable to return to work. I moved about staying in a tent, eating what I could find, and borrowed from friends and strangers. There were many times when I would go two or even three days without food. SNAP, in my particular case, would go a long way to bolstering my health as I continue to wade through the seemingly endless appeals process before me.”

— Tim, Maine

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