



NEW JERSEY

HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development

2025 Federal Budget Law

P.L. 119-21

Implications for the New Jersey
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP)



NJ SNAP

food assistance

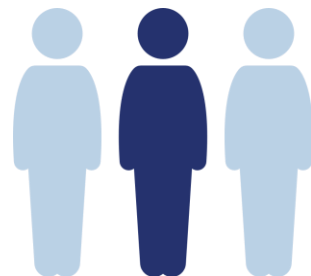
SNAP Stats

Roughly \$2B in SNAP benefits were issued during State Fiscal Year 2025.

In NJ, SNAP serves:



More than 800K people, of which more than **40%** are children



1 in 3 individuals with a disability



1 in 5 individuals age **60 and over**



SNAP dollars are spent at 6K authorized retailers throughout the state.

SNAP-Ed



The law **eliminated SNAP-Ed**, a program that received \$9.9M during Federal Fiscal Year 2025 to teach NJ residents with low incomes how to make healthy, budget-friendly food choices and lead more active lives.



Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)

The law changes the:

- age of individuals who must comply with the 80 hours/month work requirement from 18-54 to **18-65**.
- work requirement exception for those with dependent children from households with children under the age of 18 to **households with children under the age of 14**.

Non-Citizen Eligibility

The law changes who may be eligible, as long as they meet all other SNAP financial and non-financial eligibility requirements.

Pre-2025 Federal Budget Law:

- Lawful permanent residents (LPR) or Green Card holders
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) citizens
- Cuban entrants
- Haitian entrants
- Refugees
- Asylees
- Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Non-citizens battered by family members while in the United States
- Persons whose deportation is withheld due to threat of serious harm or torture upon deportation
- Those granted parole into the United States for a period of at least one year
- American Indians Born in Canada
- Members of Federally Recognized Tribes Born Abroad

2025 Federal Budget Law:

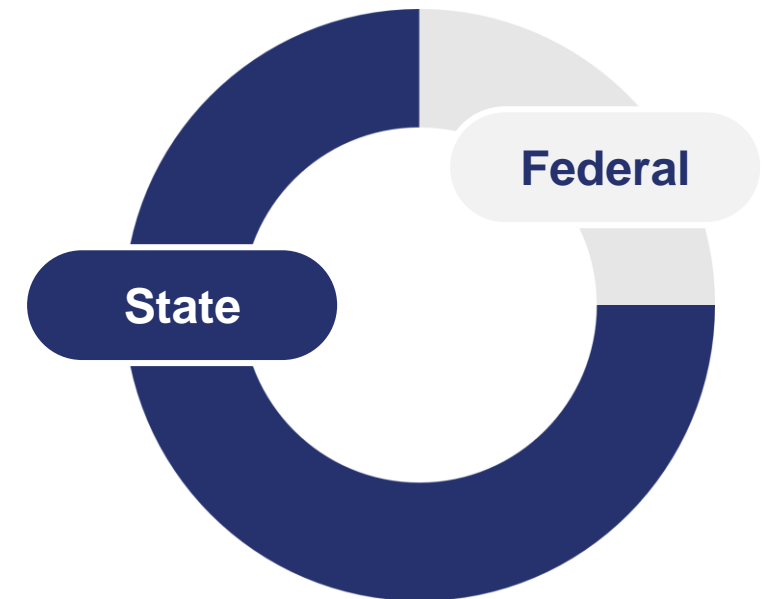
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Administrative Cost Sharing Requirement

The law changes the administrative cost contribution required by the state, which is paid by the state *and* counties, from:

- 50% federal, 50% state to **25% federal, 75% state.**

The increased administrative cost will amount to **roughly \$90M**, and **\$78M of this would need to be covered by the counties.**



Benefit Cost Sharing Requirement

The law changes the cost of benefits, which used to be fully covered by the federal government, to:

- shift responsibility to the states to pay allotment of benefits depending on their SNAP Quality Control Payment Error Rates (PER).

Match amounts that will be required by states based on their error rates:

- **Below 6% error rate: 0% match**
- **Between 6% and 7.99% error rate: 5% match**
- **Between 8% and 9.99% error rate: 10% match**
- **10% or higher error rate: 15% match**
- Each 5% cost share will amount to **\$100M** in NJ. A 15% cost share will amount to more than **\$300M**.

Quality Control and Payment Error Rates

- SNAP Quality Control (QC) is an arbitrary and changing process, which at times contradicts federal regulations.
- NJ's error rate averaged between 5% and 6% for almost 20 years, but an arbitrary change in 2023 caused our rate to increase to 35%.
- QC review criteria are different from eligibility standards, so the review is not apples to apples.
- **Error rates do *not* measure “waste, fraud and abuse.”**
 - E.g., in most of the errors found in NJ, the federal government determined that the person was eligible and the benefit calculation was correct, but the supporting paperwork was yet to be filed.

Inconsistencies Between Application Requirements and Quality Control Requirements


- Under federal rules, when a NJ resident applies for SNAP, they can produce a rent receipt to prove how much they pay.
- However, when that same case is reviewed by quality control officials, they require more information, such as the landlord's phone number.
- If that phone number is missing, the case is assessed as a "payment error."



Required by Feds at Time of Application:

RECEIPT		DATE _____	No. _____
RECEIVED FROM _____		\$ _____	
		_____ DOLLARS	
<input type="radio"/> FOR RENT <input type="radio"/> FOR _____			
ACCOUNT		<input type="radio"/> CASH	FROM _____ TO _____
PAYMENT		<input type="radio"/> CHECK	
BAL. DUE		<input type="radio"/> MONEY ORDER	
		<input type="radio"/> CREDIT CARD	BY _____
A-2701 T-46800/46802			

Required by Quality Control for Federal Review:



LANDLORD VERIFICATION FORM
 This form is to be filled out by a LANDLORD, SUBSIDIZED HOUSING AGENCY, or THE PERSON TO WHOM YOU PAY RENT.

Re: «STREET ADDRESS»
 «LINE TWO»
 «CITY», «STATE», «ZIP_CODE»

Dear **LANDLORD**:

The Division of Family Development, Bureau of Quality Control is reviewing the circumstances of «NAME» Client. A basic component of this review is verification of who lived at the address above and the shelter costs.

All information will be treated in a privileged and confidential manner by our Agency. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. You may fax the completed form to our office at FAX # 609.341.9910 or send a scanned or digitally photographed copy of the completed form to njsnapqc@dhs.nj.gov

Very truly yours,
 NJ SNAP Bureau of Quality Control

1. List all person(s) who lives at the above address during «REVIEW_MONTH». Please include the client if applicable. *If needed please list all additional household members on a separate piece of paper*

Name of People in Household	Relationship
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

2. Did anyone leave or join the household since «Application_Dates»? YES ____ NO ____ If yes, please explain: _____

3. The total rent for the month of «REVIEW_MONTH» was: _____

4. Date above rent became effective: _____ / Amount of previous rent \$ _____

5. What is the amount of the rent the client is responsible for? _____

6. Does this include heat? YES ____ NO ____ Utilities? YES ____ NO ____

7. Is tenant charged extra for heating or cooling costs separate from rent? Yes ____ or No ____

Printed Name of Landlord _____ Signature of Landlord _____ Date _____

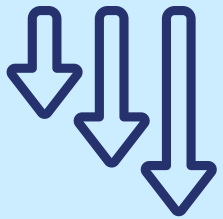
Address of Landlord _____ Telephone Number of Landlord _____

***For Apartment Building Please Indicate Management/ Leasing Office**

Review #: «REVIEW_» Interviewer Name: «INTERVIEWER_NAME_» «APPT_DATE»

Signature of Landlord	Date
<div style="border: 2px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Telephone Number of Landlord </div>	
Leasing Office	

Changes to Relationship With the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)



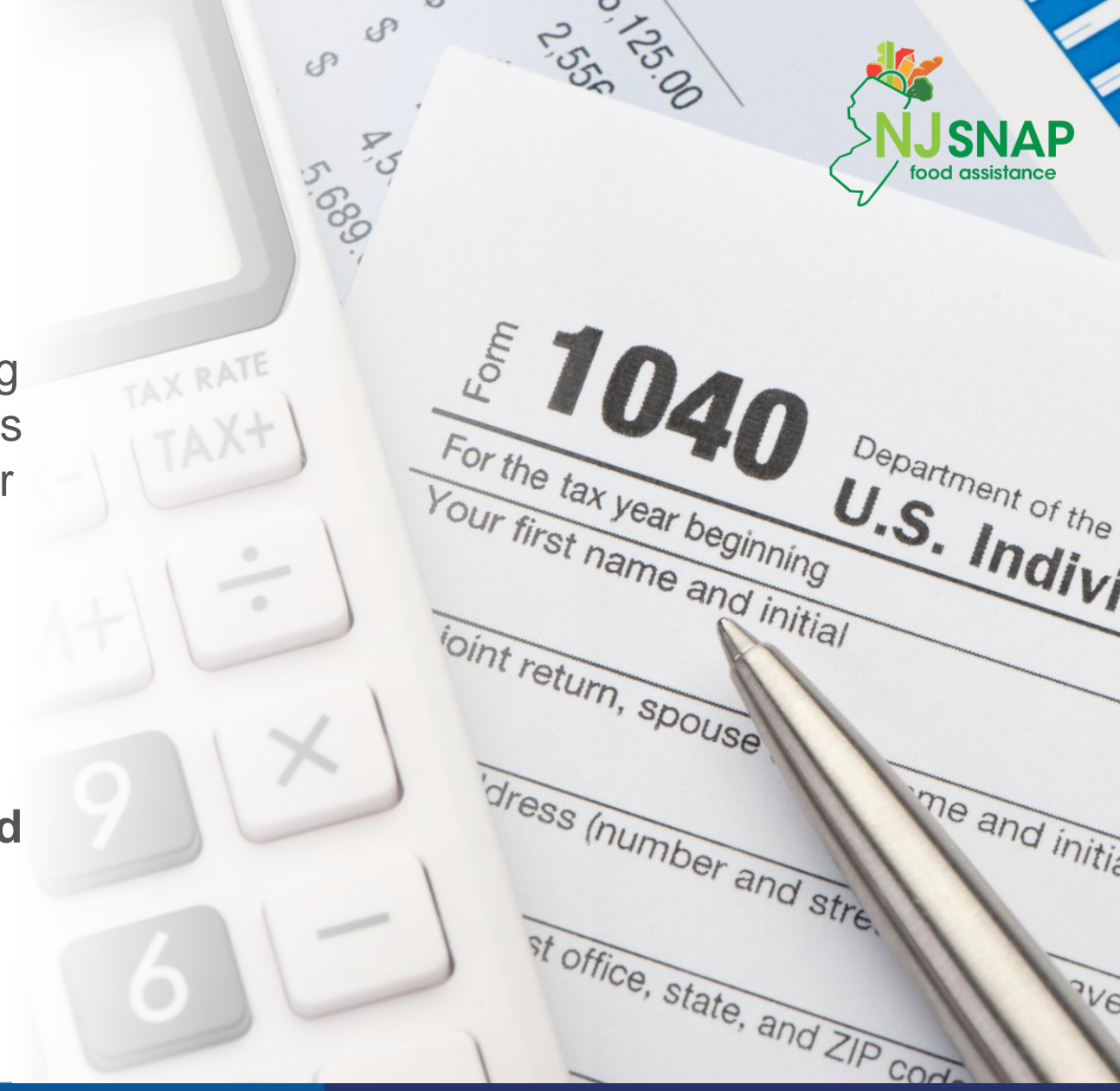
The law changes the relationship between SNAP and the LIHEAP heating and cooling program. **This will result in many SNAP recipients, who are not elderly or disabled, receiving reduced SNAP benefits.**



In addition, this change would have an administrative impact that could increase the state's Payment Error Rate, which could, in turn, cost the state more in SNAP benefits.

Return on Investment

- Both the administrative and benefit cost sharing are not cuts, but rather cost shifts. NJ taxpayers will be paying these costs from NJ taxes, rather than federal taxes.
- In NJ, residents and businesses already send more money to the federal government in comparison to how much federal money is received and distributed within the state. **In 2022, NJ sent \$165B to Washington D.C. and received \$125B.** Between 2015 and 2022, NJ consistently ranked among the bottom three states when looking at return on the dollar.



Who is hurt most by this bill?

The law will negatively impact:



New Jersey taxpayers, who will have to carry more of the benefit and administrative cost of SNAP.



Immigrants, who entered this country **legally** under certain special circumstances determined by the Attorney General, who will lose SNAP eligibility.

Questions?

