

# FOOD INSECURITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY & PRACTICES AT THE NATIONAL, STATE, & LOCAL LEVEL

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# DISCLOSURES

- I have no relevant financial relationships to disclose or conflicts of interest to resolve
- I will discuss no unapproved or off-label pharmaceuticals



# VERMONT'S FEDERALLY FUNDED NUTRITION PROGRAMS

*Alleviate food insecurity and malnutrition by providing benefits to help Vermonters purchase food wherever they shop and meals for children where they learn and play.*



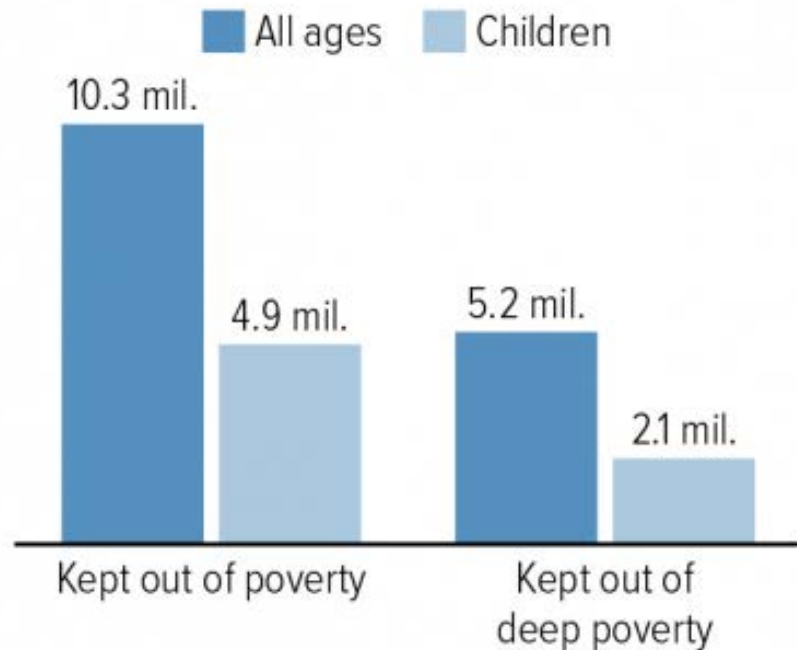
# 3SquaresVT / SNAP

*Helping Vermonters purchase food wherever they shop*

- Our nation's largest nutrition program
- Entitlement Program
- Flexible, responds to need
- Private & dignified source of support



## SNAP Kept Millions Out of Poverty and “Deep Poverty” – Below Half the Poverty Line – in 2012



Note: Figures show the number of people lifted above the poverty line using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) with corrections for underreporting.

Source: CBPP analysis of 2012 Census Bureau data from the March Current Population Survey, SPM public use file; corrections from underreporting from HHS/Urban Institute TRIM model.

# 3SquaresVT / SNAP

*It's effective!*

- Works like a vaccine for children's health
- Lifts thousands of families out of poverty each year
- Very low rate of fraud



# SNAP LEGISLATION & FUNDING

- Farm Bill

*But also....*

- Budget & appropriations
- Omnibus bills
- Sequestration
- Tax Reform



# SNAP: LEGISLATION & FUNDING

*Our Goal:* Protect program integrity, funding, and access

*What to watch out for:*

- Flexibility
- Block grants
- Shifting costs to states
- Work requirements
- Combating "rampant" fraud
- "Deserving" poor

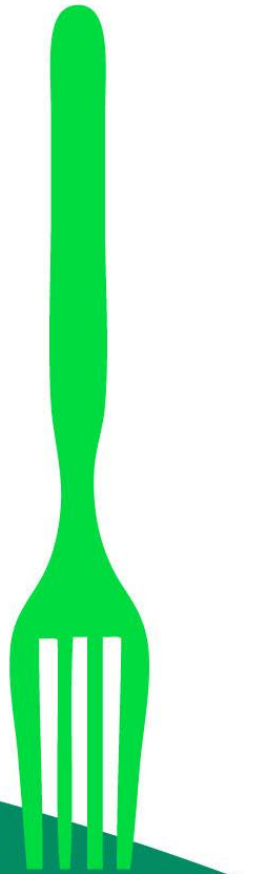


# FARM BILL

*Get involved!*

VERMONT  
**FARM BILL**  
NUTRITION COALITION

# 2017





# WIC, SCHOOL MEALS, & MORE

*Other federal nutrition programs are also under threat*

- Child Nutrition Reauthorization /  
Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act 2010

*But also....*

- Budget & appropriations
- Omnibus bills
- Sequestration
- Tax Reform



# CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS: LEGISLATION & FUNDING

*Our Goal:* No CNR / No major changes

*What to watch out for:*

- Increased eligibility threshold for Community Eligibility Provision
- Major changes to nutrition requirements
- Cuts to complimentary programs  
(i.e. 21st Century Programs)



# FEDERAL PROGRAMS AT THE STATE & LOCAL LEVEL

*Communities can support a culture of food access & good nutrition*

## *State:*

- Maintain access & state's financial support for programs
- Retain staffing levels

## *Local*

- School budgets: “investment” vs. “debt”



# SUPPORT PATIENTS' FOOD ACCESS

- Advocate for nutrition programs
- Use the Hunger Vital Sign and talk with *all* of your patients and their families about food access
- Refer them to resources & share what you know - even if it's not a lot
- Check back in!



# THANK YOU!

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