

EATING IN EAST HARLEM

Web Appendix 3-2 Overview of Changes in SNAP, 2002-2016

Year	SNAP Policy Change	Level of Government	Estimated Impact
2002	Food Security and Rural Investment Act (Farm Act): Reversing some of the changes enacted under welfare reform increased access to and simplification of SNAP by lengthening recertification intervals and restoring eligibility of: documented immigrants residing in the U.S for at least five years; immigrants receiving disability payments and children, regardless of length of residency	Federal	Simpler recertification process Increased eligibility for specified groups of immigrant residents
2003	Recertification interval extended up to 24 months for seniors and/or disabled individuals without earned income	New York State	Simpler recertification process
August 2003	Combined Application Project streamlined SNAP application process for recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	New York State	Simpler application process Increased access
October 2003	All children who satisfy other SNAP-eligibility requirements, such as income and asset limits, became eligible for food assistance	New York State	Simpler application process Increased access
2004	Online SNAP application introduced	New York City	Simpler application process
2005	Health Bucks first introduced in the Bronx by the NYC Department of Health	New York City	Boosted fruit and vegetable purchase power
2006	Health Bucks expand to Harlem and Brooklyn	New York City	
2008	The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act: Benefits increased for most households due to increase in minimum benefit and elimination of the cap on the deduction for childcare expenses. Also, the act exempted	Federal	Increased benefit amount Increased eligibility for families with

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	tax-deferred education and retirement accounts from counting as assets. This allows families to not have to draw down from their savings set aside for the future in order to survive temporary hardship.		childcare expenses
January 2008	Broad-based categorical eligibility standard was introduced without an asset limit for families with dependent care expenses or on households with seniors or people with disabilities. For all others, asset limits were raised to the maximum allowed by the USDA—200 percent of the federal poverty level—up from 130 percent. (Federal government changed this standard in 2000, but NY State did not adopt until this time)	New York State	Increased eligibility
February 2008	Electronic signatures in online SNAP applications accepted	New York City	Simpler application process
June 2008	Recertification available through telephone interview for all participants	New York City	Simpler recertification process
September 2008	Initial application and certification by telephone without documenting household hardship	New York State	Increased eligibility for those with difficulty or hardship in traveling to and from the social services office
2009	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allowed SNAP recipients to receive a 13.6% increase in their maximum monthly SNAP allotment. ARRA provided a temporary boost in SNAP benefits to offset the economic recession	Federal	Increased benefit amounts for all participants
2012	Requirements of digital fingerprinting for SNAP applicants were removed, eliminating a bureaucratic barrier for many to receive their benefits. This action was implemented through an executive order by Governor Andrew Cuomo, overriding the	New York City	Streamlined access and recertification

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	<p>opposition of then New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. (NY State-level SNAP rule passed initially in 2007 no longer requiring digital imaging of applicants, while NYC retained requirement.)</p>		
2012	<p>Health Bucks were extended to all city farmers' market in the city.</p>	New York City	<p>Increased fruit and vegetable purchasing power</p>
November 2013	<p>The ARRA act expired and was not renewed, and SNAP benefit funding cuts legislated by Congress went into effect as part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 to pay for a six-cents-per-meal increase in federal school lunch reimbursements.</p>	New York City	<p>Decreased benefit amounts for all participants</p>
2016	<p>From 500,000 to 1 million people will be cut off SNAP due to return in many areas of a three-month limit on SNAP benefits for unemployed adults aged 18-49 who aren't disabled or raising minor children</p>	Federal	<p>Decreased benefits for selected population</p>