



## **SNAP Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility**

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### **SNAP Supports Working Families**

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's largest anti-hunger program and provides timely, targeted and temporary support to low-income households for the purchase of food.
- SNAP supplements the income of low-wage earners helping working families make ends meet and is carefully structured to encourage work.
- In 2017, about 42 million people accessed food through SNAP.
- About 87% of SNAP participants live in households with children, elderly individuals, or individuals with disabilities.
- SNAP helps families buy food, freeing up resources to pay for other basic needs to get by, which infuses additional dollars into the local economy.

### **Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility Helps Struggling Families**

- Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) allows states to structure asset limit tests so that families, seniors and people with disabilities can maintain modest savings or own their own home, while continuing to combat food insecurity.
- Elimination of BBCE would overwhelmingly affect working families, children, seniors and people with disabilities – and would punish those seeking to work more hours or establish meager savings in order to become more financially stable and independent.

### **United Way Supports a Robust SNAP Program**

- United Way is committed to preserving access to nutritious food, fighting hunger and supporting working families.
- SNAP makes food accessible to hungry families more cost-effectively and at a scale that no independent nonprofit can match.
- BBCE is an important pathway states use to enable participants to bypass the income eligibility and asset limitations for SNAP because they have already met eligibility requirements for other programs.
- States should be provided the continued flexibility they need in determining SNAP eligibility to adequately meet the food insecurity needs of working families in their communities.
- United Way opposes the elimination of broad-based categorical eligibility.