



Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

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Center on
Budget
and Policy
Priorities



January 25, 2018

Federal Threats to SNAP

Questions

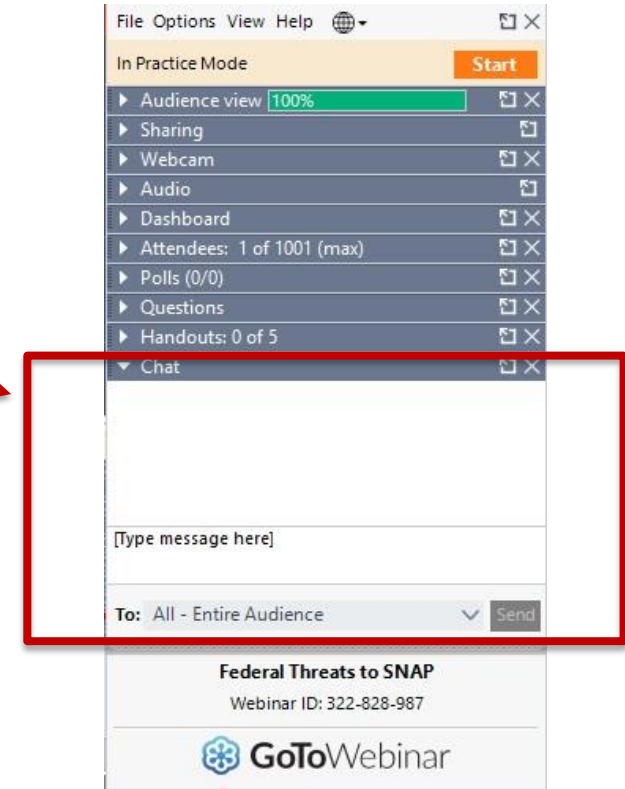
All attendees are in listen-only mode

Asking questions:

- Submit questions at any time using the chat feature
- During Q & A segment the moderators will read selected questions that have been submitted

Materials:

- Slides are available to download now
- Recording available after



Today's Presenters

Ana Hicks, State Strategies Manager
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities



Anthony Alfano, Public Policy & Advocacy Associate Manager
Greater Chicago Food Depository

Kelsie Landers, Economic Justice VISTA
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Federal Threats to SNAP

Today's agenda:

- Federal update
- SNAP is our strongest anti-hunger tool
- SNAP and work
- Block Grants and SNAP
- Promoting Health
- Keep SNAP strong for Illinois
- Questions [submit via chat box]



Federal Update

- Tuesday, Jan 30: State of the Union
- Wednesday, Jan 31 through Feb 2: GOP Retreat
- Monday, Feb 12: Release of President Trump's Budget
- Possibly sometime between February 14 and early March:
Mark up of the Farm Bill

Reminder- Submit Questions

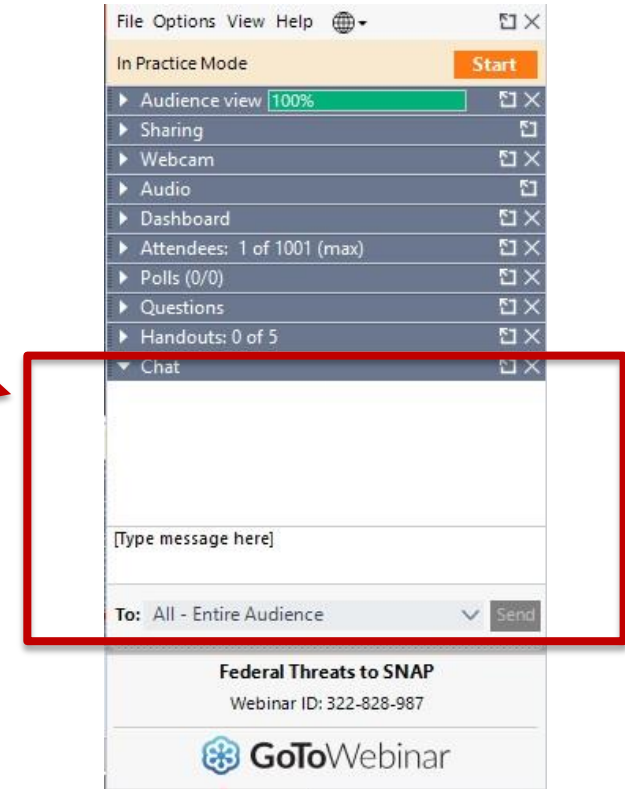
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SNAP is Important, Effective, and Efficient!



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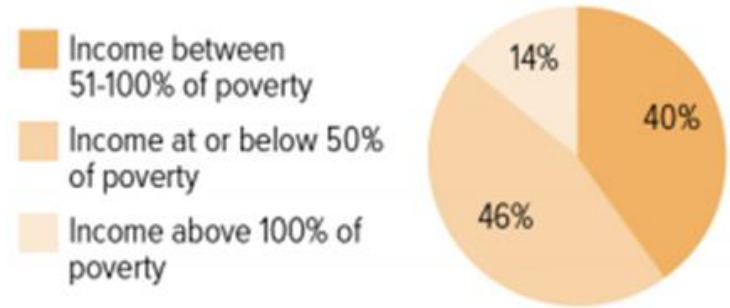
Face of Food Insecurity in Illinois

Many **Illinois** households struggle to put food on the table.

- **11.1%** of households face food insecurity or struggle to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.
- **13.6%** of the population lives below the poverty line.
- **18.9%** of children lives below the poverty line.
- **8.5%** of elderly lives below the poverty line.

Most SNAP Participants in Illinois Are Poor

Share of participants by household income, FY 2015



Who does SNAP Reach?

1 in 7

- 1.9 million Illinois residents or 15% of the state's population

Kids

- Almost 65% of SNAP households have children

Workers

- Almost 41% are in working families

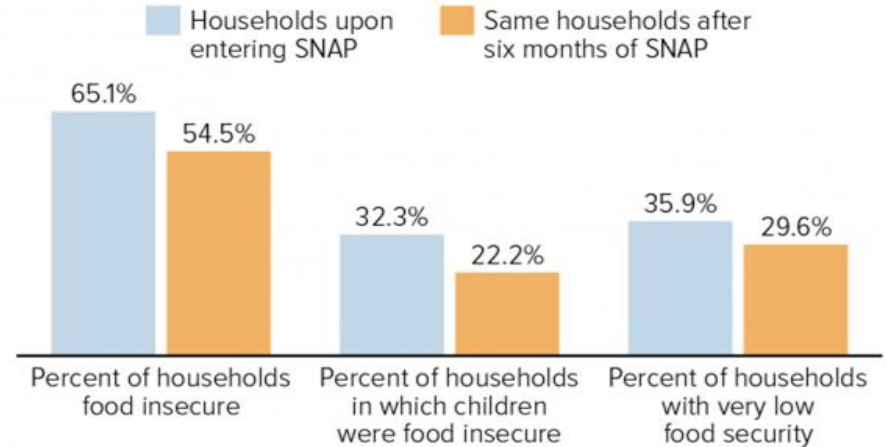
Elderly & Disabled

- Almost 28% are in families with members who are elderly and disabled

SNAP Works!

- SNAP has largely eliminated severe hunger and malnutrition in the U.S.
- SNAP helped lift 3.6 million Americans out of poverty in 2016
- SNAP helps low-income households put food on the table and improves long-term health and well-being
- SNAP supports work

SNAP Helps Families Afford Adequate Food



SNAP is Efficient and Benefits the Economy

- SNAP pumped about \$3 billion into the Illinois economy in 2016
- In a weak economy, every \$1 in SNAP generates \$1.70 in economic impact (& about \$1.30 in a normal/strong economy)



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SNAP & Work



Food assistance is a supplement

The average amount of SNAP benefits isn't enough to become dependent on, which is why the majority of food stamp recipients who can work already do so.

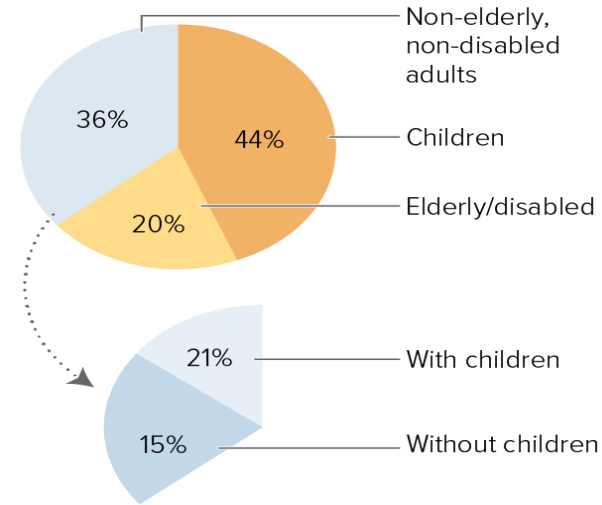
Average SNAP benefits in Illinois:

\$132
per month

or

\$1.47
per meal

Close to Two-Thirds of SNAP Recipients Are Children, Elderly, or Disabled



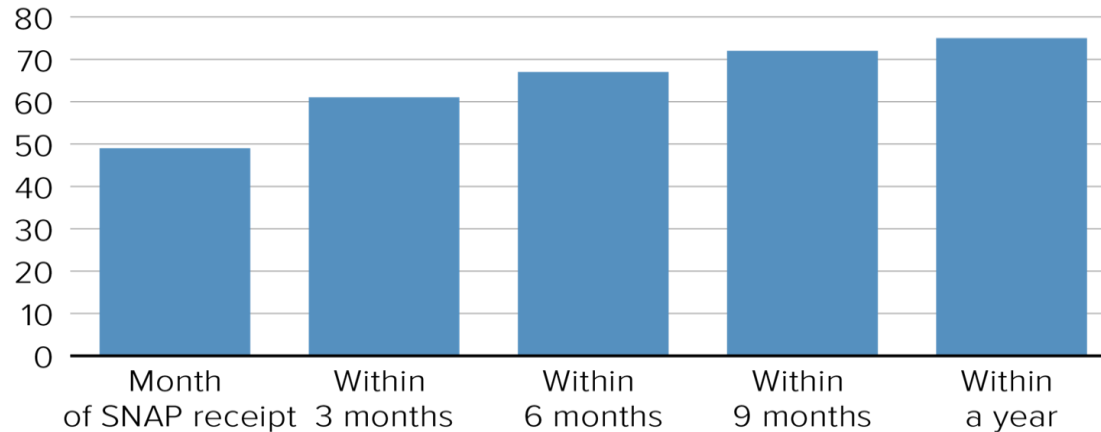
Source: CBPP tabulations of USDA 2015 SNAP household characteristics data.

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Most are already working throughout the year

Three-quarters of childless adults are employed within a year of receiving SNAP

Share of non-disabled childless adults employed within year of SNAP receipt



Source: CBPP Analysis of 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) panel data

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Engaging a vulnerable group

The most detailed study found the group unable to meet work requirements SNAP in Ohio had:

- Low levels of education;
- Mental or physical limitations;
- Undiagnosed learning disorders, intellectual disabilities, and autism;
- Gaps in employment records deterring employers and felony convictions making it difficult to pass background checks;
- And other significant barriers to work.

Source: <http://ohiofoodbanks.org/wep/WEP-2013-2015-report.pdf>

The subset of men and women vulnerable to SNAP work rules is particularly poor.

*Average
monthly
income:*

\$283

*Average
monthly
SNAP
benefit:*

\$138

Federal Work Rules

SNAP currently has three federal work rules:

- 1. Work provisions**
- 2. Employment and Training (E&T)**
- 3. Time limit**

Federal Work Rules

Work provisions:

- Across Illinois
- Required, with some exceptions, of adults between the ages of 16 and 60 years of age
- Agree to: register for work, accept job offers, not voluntarily quit or reduce hours
- Cooperate with E&T

Time Limit on Eligibility

The time limit—a unique and harsh federal policy

- Applies to able-bodied adults without children
- The Governor of IL requested a waiver for all counties in the state, except for DuPage County
- Eligible for nutrition assistance only three months of a three year period unless working or in school 80 hours per month
- No services and supports from state

Building opportunities, not barriers

Effective workforce programs for low-income, vulnerable job seekers exist in other states.

Effective programs share the following characteristics:

- They leverage existing strategies, organizations, and systems that have built expertise in serving vulnerable groups.
- They include supportive services, occupation and job skill training, retention services, and, often, subsidized wages.
- They are high-expectation but do not threaten the health and well-being of participants by threatening basic needs support, like SNAP.

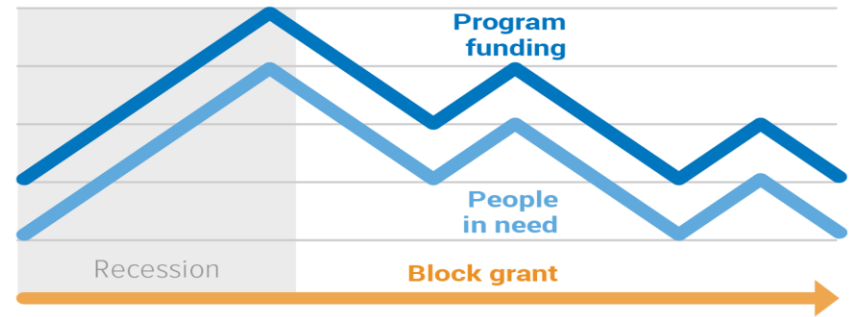
States that have the most success helping SNAP recipients gain and maintain work focus on voluntary programs with robust services and supports.

Block Grants = Ending SNAP



Block Grants = Ending SNAP

- SNAP is an incredibly effective and responsive program
- If SNAP was turned into a block grant, Illinois would receive a fixed amount of SNAP funds regardless of need or the state of the economy
- Block grants would be a bad deal for the state of Illinois - that only gets worse over time



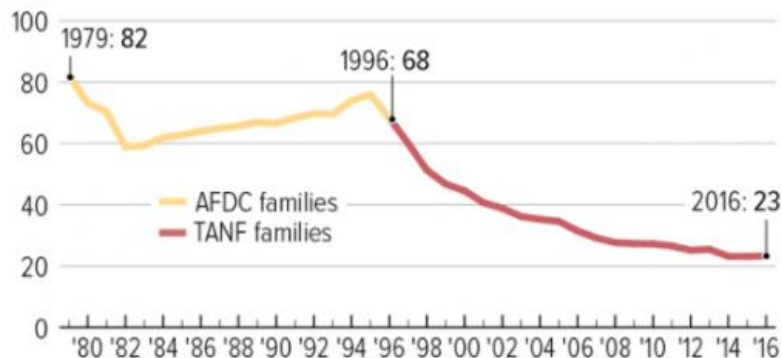
The TANF Block Grant is Not a Good Model to Follow

FIGURE 1



TANF's Role as a Safety Net Continues to Decline

Number of families receiving AFDC/TANF benefits for every 100 families with children in poverty



Note: TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, AFDC = Aid to Families with Dependent Children

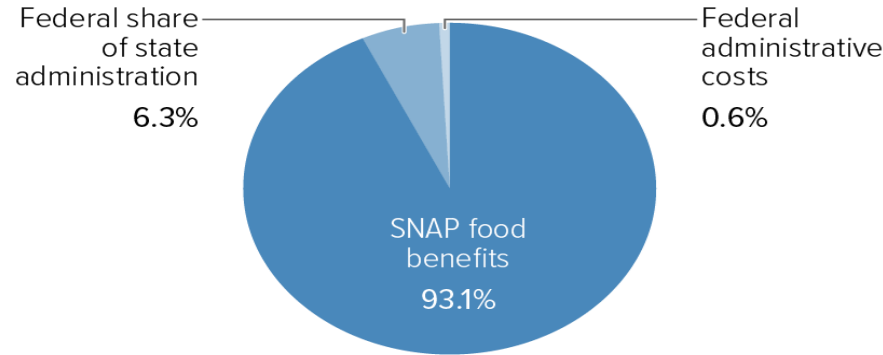
Source: CBPP analysis of poverty data from the Census' Current Population Survey and AFDC/TANF caseload data from Department of Health and Human Services and (since September 2006) caseload data collected by CBPP from state agencies.

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If SNAP is turned into a block grant, it is likely that it would follow the path of TANF and would lose its ability to combat widespread hunger, just as TANF has lost its ability to provide sufficient cash assistance to poor families.

SNAP Food Benefits are Majority of Spending

93 Percent of Federal SNAP Spending Is for Food



Notes: Chart excludes spending on activities not directly related to SNAP but in the SNAP budget account, such as nutrition assistance in the U.S. territories, support for food banks, and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. The federal share of state administration includes state costs associated with SNAP operations – including eligibility determinations, benefit issuance, and quality control – as well as certain services for SNAP recipients such as employment and training and nutrition education. Federal administrative costs include the mandatory and discretionary federal costs of administering SNAP.

Source: Department of Agriculture, Fiscal Year 2015, obligations as reported in fiscal year 2017 “Explanatory Notes for Committee on Appropriations.”

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Promoting Health

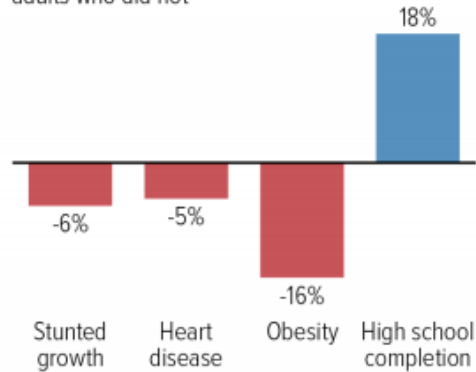


SNAP Has Long-Term Benefits

FIGURE 7

Children With Access to SNAP Fare Better Years Later

Percentage-point change in outcomes for adults who received SNAP as children, compared to adults who did not



Note: The study compared individuals who had access to SNAP (then food stamps) in early childhood after its introduction in the 1960s and early 1970s to similar children who did not (because they were born before its introduction) in each county.

Source: Hoynes, Schanzenbach, and Almond, "Long-Run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net," *American Economic Review*, April 2016.

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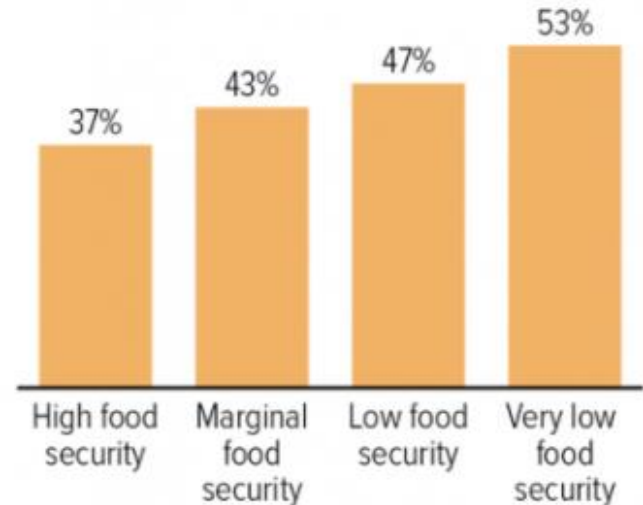
- SNAP is associated with improved current and long-term health
- SNAP reduces food insecurity 20 to 30%
- SNAP is linked with reduced health care costs
- Consequences of *running out* of benefits - caloric intake falls 10-25%

SNAP Has Long-Term Benefits

- SNAP helps families lead healthy lifestyles
- Decreases risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, and heart disease
- Lawmakers can help low-income families access more healthy foods by building on SNAP as it currently exists

Adults in Households with Less Food Security Are Likelier to Have a Chronic Illness

Probability of any chronic illness



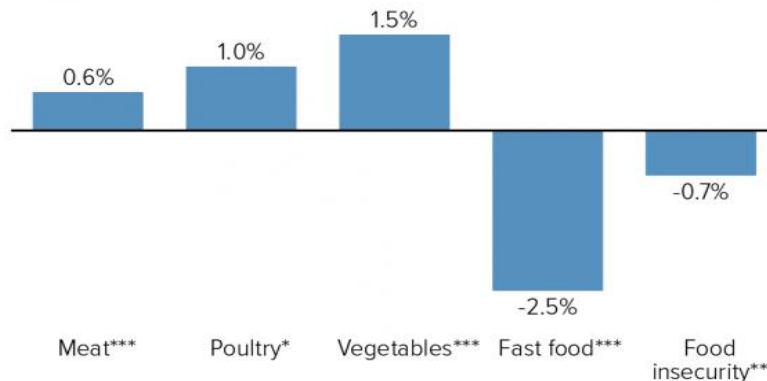
Even \$30 would enable healthier choices

An additional \$30 per capita of monthly SNAP benefits has been shown to:

- Increase fruit, vegetable, and milk purchases
- Decrease fast food purchases
- Decrease food insecurity

Higher SNAP Benefits Mean More Groceries, Better Nutrition

Estimated impact on food consumption and food insecurity of \$30 increase in monthly per capita benefits



, **, * Indicate relationship is significant for a two-sided test at the 0.15, 0.10, 0.05 level or better, respectively.

Source: Authors' analysis of National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 2007-2012)

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Proposals to restrict food choice

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is key to the health and well-being of millions of low-income families and children. Lawmakers who want to improve the health of SNAP recipients should build on and strengthen policies and programs that have proven effective—and not attack people for not having access to healthy foods.

Keeping SNAP Strong in Illinois



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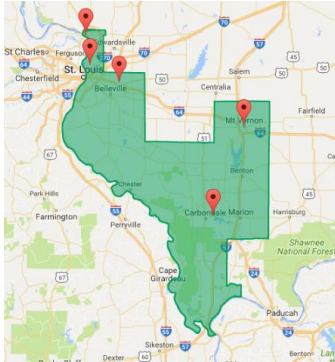


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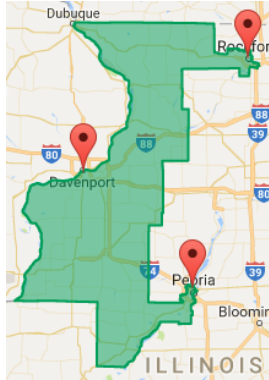
House Committee on Agriculture



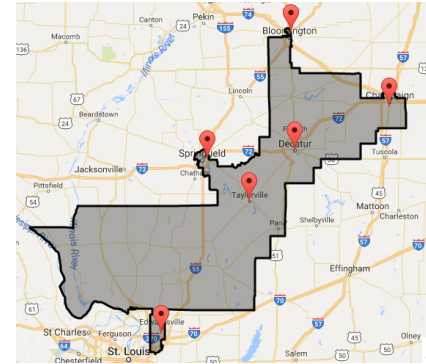
Mike Bost
12th District



Cheri Bustos
17th District



Rodney Davis
13th District



Actions You Can Take!

Three Things You Can Do Today

1. Join the SNAP Advocates Email Group by emailing il-snap-advocates+subscribe@googlegroups.com or contact ahuguelet@gcfd.org
2. Sign-on to the Illinois Delegation Letter
3. Save the date for the IL Hunger Summit & Lobby Day, May 8-9: <https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/hunger-summit-save-date/>

SNAP Resources

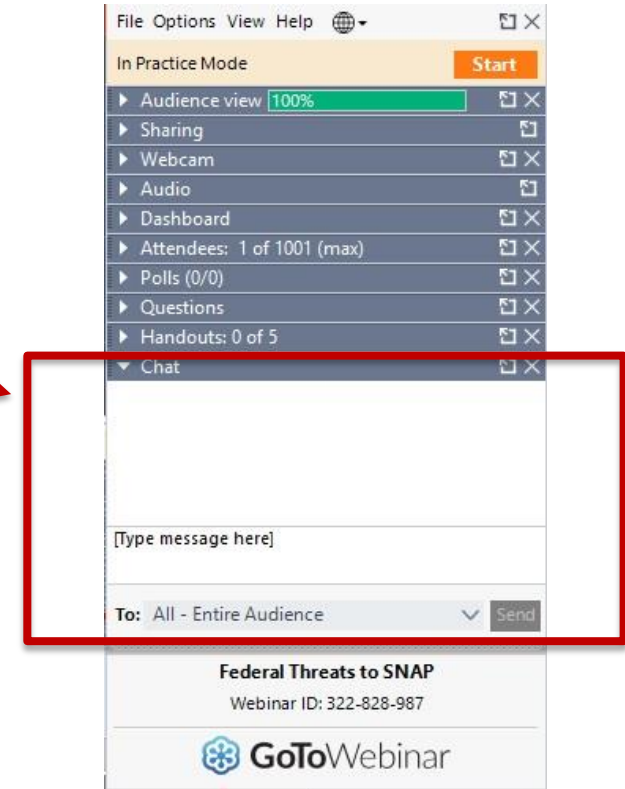
- Illinois State SNAP Fact Sheet - http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_illinois.pdf -
- Block-Granting Low-Income Programs Leads to Large Funding Declines Over Time, History Shows - <http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/block-granting-low-income-programs-leads-to-large-funding-declines-over-time>
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation and Health Care Expenditures Among Low-Income Adults- <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2653910>
- Hamilton Project - 12 Facts About Food Insecurity and SNAP http://www.hamiltonproject.org/assets/files/twelve_facts_about_food_insecurity_and_snap.pdf
- Ohio Food Banks - Evaluating and supporting men and women who lose SNAP due to the time limit <http://ohiofoodbanks.org/wep/WEP-2013-2015-report.pdf>
- Heartland Alliance Illinois SNAP Policy Page - <https://www.heartlandalliance.org/policy-and-advocacy/Learn+About+SNAP>

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Thanks for joining us!



Kelsie Landers

67 E. Madison St. Suite 2000
Chicago IL, 60603
312.443.8474
kelsielanders@povertylaw.org

Ana Hicks

Center on Budget and Policy
Priorities
Cbpp.org

Anthony Alfano

4100 West Ann Lurie Place
Chicago, IL 60632
773.843.6707
aalfano@gcfd.org

povertylaw.org

