

Protecting and Strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's most important anti-hunger program. SNAP lifts [millions of low-income Latinos](#)* out of poverty and helps them put food on the table. Yet, hardworking Latino families continue to experience disproportionately higher rates of food insecurity. According to Census Bureau data from July 2023, Latino households with children ([20%](#)) persistently report not having enough to eat at nearly double the rate of white households with children ([11%](#)).

As Congress negotiates the 2023 Farm Bill, UnidosUS is dedicated to protecting and strengthening SNAP and improving equitable access to healthy and affordable food for all Americans. We urge policymakers to consider our 2023 Farm Bill priorities for promoting equitable access to food:

Opposing proposals to impose additional work documentation requirements or slash funding for SNAP.

Although Latinos participate in the labor force at higher rates than nearly all other racial and ethnic groups ([65.5%](#)), they are often in jobs that do not pay enough to cover basic needs like nutritious food, housing, and health care. SNAP participation is already subject to strict work documentation requirements, and there is [increasing evidence](#) that such requirements worsen economic hardship and hunger without improving employment or wages. If additional work documentation requirements in SNAP are imposed, this would only [exacerbate racial disparities](#) in hunger and poverty among low-income Americans.

Ending discrimination against American citizens who live in Puerto Rico by creating a path for Puerto Rico's transition from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) to SNAP.

In Puerto Rico, low-income citizens of the United States are denied help buying food because of where they live. People born in Puerto Rico are American citizens, just like people born in the 50 states. But SNAP excludes Americans who live in Puerto Rico. This cruel exclusion deepens the island's already severe [hunger](#) and [poverty](#), damaging the health and well-being of children and families. Congress must fix this inequity by extending SNAP to Americans and lawful residents who live in Puerto Rico and would qualify for help if their homes were on the mainland.

* The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. This document may also refer to this population as "Latinx" to represent the diversity of gender identities and expressions that are present in the community.