

# SNAP PEAS

PARTNERS ENGAGING IN APPLICATION SERVICES

## WHY SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP, also known as “Food Stamps”**) is by far the largest and most responsive nutritional support program available. As an entitlement program, SNAP grows with need, unlike block granted programs like TANF which can run out of funds. After unemployment insurance, SNAP is the most effective federal program that provides assistance during economic downturns.<sup>1</sup> It further reduces the likelihood of being food insecure by roughly 30% and the likelihood of being very food insecure by 20%.<sup>2</sup>

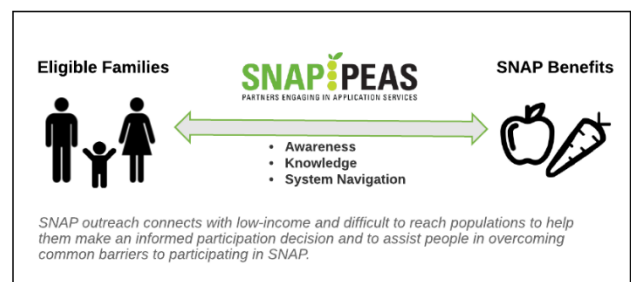
## WHY SNAP Outreach?

SNAP is an incredible resource for people in need, but **many eligible Coloradans do not receive this benefit that they are entitled to**. In fact, over the last decade, Colorado has performed in the bottom ten percent of all states in the federal SNAP Program Access Index (PAI) measurement. According to USDA data on 2017 SNAP enrollment figures, Colorado ranked 43rd in the nation for access to SNAP benefits.<sup>3</sup> Data also indicate that 451,370 Coloradans<sup>4</sup> were enrolled in SNAP in 2018 (8 percent of the state population or 1 in 13 Coloradans), but that **an estimated 302,167 low-income individuals were eligible but not enrolled**.<sup>5</sup> This disparity has grown since the onset of COVID-19.

Many households that are SNAP eligible are unaware of the program, unsure of their eligibility, and run into significant barriers to application. **SNAP outreach fills that gap and connects more people in dire need to the federal benefits they are entitled to through:**

- **Awareness & Knowledge** (Overcoming Learning Barriers & Costs)
- **System Navigation** (Overcoming Compliance Barriers & Costs)
- **Stigma Reduction** (Overcoming Psychological Barriers & Costs)

Research suggests that **SNAP outreach substantially increases SNAP enrollment**, especially when this outreach includes application assistance (200% increase relative to a control group in one study). **This increase is primarily enrollment that would NOT have otherwise occurred** (i.e., it is net new enrollment, NOT enrollment that would have happened anyway).<sup>6</sup> In other words, **SNAP outreach bridges the gap between eligibility and enrollment**, connecting thousands of people at risk of going hungry to the nutritional supports they are entitled to and that they need to thrive.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/policy-basics-the-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/28506/412065-How-Much-Does-SNAP-Reduce-Food-Insecurity-.PDF>

<sup>3</sup> <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/ops/PAI2017.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> FNS-388 CY 2018 [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/115m-vTO\\_6J91UrULGln601yqzbYaBkA](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/115m-vTO_6J91UrULGln601yqzbYaBkA)

<sup>5</sup> Estimated Number of Coloradans with Income Below 125% of Federal Poverty, 2018 ACS less FNS-388 CY 2018 enrollment.

<sup>6</sup> <https://economics.mit.edu/files/18986>

## HOW SNAP PEAS CAN HELP

SNAP PEAS (Partners Engaging in Application Services) is a program of Hunger Free Colorado that **provides FREE training, technical assistance and sometimes financial support to help organizations incorporate SNAP Outreach into their regular business processes.** SNAP PEAS come in all shapes and sizes and include Family Resource Centers, Food Banks/Pantries/Soup Kitchens, Hospitals, WIC Offices, institutions of higher education, and a wide range of CBOs and nonprofits. If you work with a population that could use nutritional support, SNAP PEAS might just be for you.

SNAP PEAS receive the following from Hunger Free Colorado **FREE** of charge:

- **Trainings:**
  - SNAP Outreach and Basic Eligibility
  - Compliance
  - PEAK Pro, CBMS, & tele signature
- **Software Licenses via CDHS**
- **Telephonic Signature Storage and Retrieval**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Evaluation and Data Support**
- **Relationship Support**
- It is also **possible to receive funding** for this work as a SNAP PEAS partner. If you are ready to talk about becoming a SNAP PEAS partner please shoot us an email or give us a ring.

To become a **SNAP PEAS** partner  
**CONTACT:**

**Emily Hunter**  
**SNAP PEAS Outreach Manager**  
**720.583.3280**  
[Emily@HungerFreeColorado.org](mailto:Emily@HungerFreeColorado.org)

## OTHER OPTIONS that support SNAP enrollment

For some organizations, application assistance through the SNAP PEAS program is outside their team's capacity, but the need and interest in connecting clients to SNAP and other nutrition benefits remains. Hunger Free Colorado can support this need in two other ways:

- **Referrals to the HFC Food Resource Hotline** – Hunger Free Colorado accepts referrals from organizations and individuals. A member of our Hotline Team reaches out to referred clients within 3 business days (usually in less than 24 hours). The best way to refer clients to the Hunger Free Colorado Food Resource Hotline is through one of our online referral portals. We also accept cold calls:
  - **Online Referral Form for Clients:** [bit.ly/SNAPAppHelp](https://bit.ly/SNAPAppHelp)
  - **Online Referral Form for Organizations:** [bit.ly/SNAPReferral](https://bit.ly/SNAPReferral)
  - **Food Resource Hotline Number:** 855.855.4626

**For more information** on referrals please contact Machayla Fortin, **Hotline Manager @ 303.228.7958**  
**OR** [Machayla@HungerFreeColorado.org](mailto:Machayla@HungerFreeColorado.org)

- **Hosting a HFC Navigator On-Site (Metro Denver Only)** – Hunger Free Colorado Food Assistance Navigators provide SNAP Outreach at various community sites and we are always happy to entertain new venues. **For more information** on hosting a Hunger Free Colorado Food Assistance Navigator at your site contact Ninfa Drago, **Mobile Outreach Manager @ 720.569.2000** **OR** [Ninfa@HungerFreeColorado.org](mailto:Ninfa@HungerFreeColorado.org)