

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Honorable Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
New York State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 330
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Speaker Carl E. Heastie
New York State Assembly
932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie,

We, the undersigned organizations representing the New York business community, strongly urge you to include a \$100 minimum SNAP benefit in this year's budget. The legislation ([S.665](#) / [A.1318](#)) has strong, bipartisan support and would help stimulate our state's food economy. We ask that you appropriate **\$100 million** to ensure all New Yorkers receive more assistance during these difficult times.

Our organizations recognize the vital importance of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The program is the nation's largest and most impactful anti-hunger program, providing nearly 3 million New Yorkers with monthly benefits to purchase food. These benefits are utilized at roughly 17,000 SNAP-authorized retailers including grocery stores, supermarkets, and corner stores in addition to over 180 participating farmers' markets. Data from New York's Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) finds that the initiative would raise monthly benefits for over 140,000 households, helping low-income New Yorkers better afford food – many of whom are older adults and people struggling with a disability.

Higher SNAP benefits are proven to not only reduce [poverty](#) and [food insecurity](#) rates, but also support local economies. The USDA's Economic Research Service [estimates](#) that every \$1 invested in SNAP generates approximately \$1.54 in economic growth, in addition to supporting tens of thousands of jobs in the food industry. Using this framework, we anticipate that investing a modest \$100 million would boost our state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by nearly \$154 million. It is also worth noting that these benefits would have significant impact in upstate cities – Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse in particular, who have some of the highest rates of SNAP participation – as well as downstate communities in New York City and Long Island.

In recent years, states including [New Jersey](#) and [New Mexico](#) have used state funding to raise the SNAP minimum benefit. In our state the proposal has broad-based support from the [mayors](#) of Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse. There is a growing recognition that policies that reduce hunger and poverty are also important for supporting the vitality of local economies. New York should play a leading role by guaranteeing a \$100 minimum for all participating New Yorkers.

Our organizations are committed to ensuring all New Yorkers have the resources they need to afford a nutritious diet. Raising the SNAP minimum benefit to \$100 a month is not just sound economic policy, it is the right thing to do. That is why, together, we ask that the Enacted FY 2026 New York State Budget include a \$100 million appropriation to guarantee a SNAP minimum benefit of \$100.

Respectfully,



Mike Durant
President & CEO
Food Industry Alliance of NY



Mona Golub
VP Public Relations & Consumer Services
Northeast Shared Services



Ron Ferri
President
Tops Friendly Markets



Bill Ander
Driscoll Foods



Khadijah Abdullah
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Alison Ritchie
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NYS Association of Convenience Stores



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Thomas McNeil

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Senior Manager of Government Affairs
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Nishant Roy
Chief Impact Officer
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