

SNAP Changes in 2026



H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB), passed in July 2025 made many significant changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

To help Summit County residents better understand what this means, we are breaking down parts of the new law. This is only a small portion of the changes made to the program, and does not account for any changes in Medicaid. We will provide more guidance as it becomes available.

For more information, please visit co.summitoh.net/SNAPandMedicaid

Changes to Work Requirements

Increases work requirement age from 55 to 64	New	Previously, able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) aged 18-55 were already required to work 20hrs/week.
Child age exemption decreasing from 18 to 14	New	Now, all able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) aged 18-64 must work 20hrs/week, 80hrs/month, and provide adequate documentation.
Child age exemption decreasing from 18 to 14	New	Previously, raising a minor child meant you were exempt from work requirements.
Removes exemption for homeless or veteran status	New	Having a child 14+ years old is now not considered a barrier to fulfilling work requirements. Now, adults with children 14+ years old must fulfill all work requirements (20hrs/week).
Removes exemption for homeless or veteran status	New	Previously, being a veteran or being homeless meant you did not have to meet work requirements.
Removes exemption for homeless or veteran status	New	Now, veterans and homeless individuals must fulfill all work requirements (20hrs/week).

If you do not qualify for an exemption and you fail to meet these work requirements, you will only be eligible for SNAP benefits for 3 months in a 3 year period. This begins in March 2026. If you fail to meet requirements March, April, and May 2026 – **you will likely be ineligible for SNAP benefits through March 2029.**

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Who is impacted by the changes in work requirements?

In Summit County alone, we estimate*
+16,000 individuals will be affected—
or **21%** of our current SNAP recipients.

*The State of Ohio's Department of Job and Family Services has indicated that they will be notifying affected SNAP recipients statewide by mail and robocall. Summit County's Department of Job and Family Services does not currently have a list of affected clients.

Employment Resources



OhioMeansJobs.

Summit County
A proud partner of the
American Job Center network

OhioMeansJobs Summit County is the local, all-in-one workforce resource center and provides a full range of free services to job seekers.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/OMJSummit>
scan the QR code,
or call 330-633-1050 to access resources.



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SNAP Education & Training Program (SNAP E&T)

SNAP E&T is a voluntary program that can help SNAP participants gain skills and find work.

- offers free training, education, and career advice to help you reach your goals.
- helps with things that might make it hard for you to get a job or move forward in your career. Those things could include paying for uniforms, supplies, transportation, and child care.

In Summit County, SNAP E&T is available for any SNAP recipient to utilize.

Participating in SNAP E&T is one way to fulfill the new work requirements.

What does the process look like?

- You ask to join SNAP E&T.
- You come to Summit County Job & Family Services (JFS) to meet with a SNAP E&T case manager.
 - *During this appointment, you will discuss your employment goals, needs, barriers and strengths.*
 - *This may include completing a computer assessment.*
- You and the case manager decide on the SNAP E&T activities that meet your goals.
- You stay connected with your SNAP E&T case manager to discuss your progress and receive extra support when you need it.
- You accomplish your goals and complete the program with confidence.

How Do I Enroll?

By phone:

8:00am - 4:00pm, Monday - Friday

330-643-6577

Online:

Complete the SNAP E&T request through your Ohio Benefits Self-service portal

ssp.benefits.ohio.gov

In-Person:

Visit Summit County JFS

**1180 S Main St, Suite 102,
Akron OH 44301**

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Volunteering & Work Requirements

Spending at least 20 hours a week on verified unpaid work activities can fulfill SNAP work requirements for able-bodied adults.

Volunteering is considered “unpaid work.”

Other unpaid activities include community service or work done “in-kind,” which is getting goods or services in exchange for doing work.

What does this look like?

For an unpaid, volunteer activity to count toward your work requirements, the unpaid work activity:

- must not take place in your own home.
- must benefit the community OR a member of the community who does not reside with the individual.
- must be verified with a specific form.
 - In Ohio, this specific form is called **“ABA Verification of Unpaid Hours”** or **“JFS-07410”**
 - This form must be completed by the SNAP participant and the person/agency you are providing unpaid services for.
 - This form is available at <https://co.summitoh.net/SNAPandMedicaid>

If there are changes to your schedule and you spend less than 20 hours/week or less than 80 hours/month on your work activities, you must tell your county JFS office by contacting (844) 640-6446 within 10 days following the month in which this change happened.

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What does SNAP look like in Summit County now?

42,686
households

purchasing food at local grocery stores, wholesalers, retailers, and farmers' markets

Before the OBBB: **\$15.5 million distributed monthly**
→ *into our local economy*

~78,000 total residents
across all 31 communities

13% of Summit County residents

More than 1/4
of Akron residents

Individual SNAP Recipients by Age

0-9 years old

10-18 years old

19-59 years old

60+ years old

15,311

12,296

31,667

13,583