

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

FOOD BANK

Community **FOOD BANK** of Eastern Oklahoma

www.okfoodbank.org



Why increasing SNAP benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic is important and what can you say to your lawmakers.

The Ask:

- Email, call, and/or tag your U.S. Senators and Member of Congress and urge them to support a temporary, 15% SNAP increase in benefits during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Why We are Asking for this Increase:

- **The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's first line of defense against hunger.** It helps 36 million people in our country put food on the table. Two out of 3 SNAP recipients are children, seniors, and those facing disabilities.
- **SNAP supports economy during times of disaster and recession.** Increasing SNAP benefits is an efficient way for government to quickly infuse dollars back into the economy. Those dollars support our grocery stores while ensuring nutrition needs are met during the pandemic.
- **Increasing SNAP relieves the pressure that the charitable sector faces in meeting need.** Agencies are seeing upticks in demand for food assistance during the COVID-19 outbreak. For every meal provided by Food Banks, SNAP provides 9 meals. SNAP helps us meet the growing need.
- **SNAP needs a boost in value.** The program SNAP benefits average about \$1.40 per meal, per person. In order to adequately feed seniors, children, and Oklahomans hit hardest during the pandemic, we must bolster the benefit in this time of uncertainty.

Where to reach offices:

- Senator Lankford: <https://www.lankford.senate.gov/contact/email>
- Senator Inhofe: <https://www.inhofe.senate.gov/contact/email-jim>
- Congressman Hern: <https://hern.house.gov/contact/>
- Congressman Mullin: <https://mullin.house.gov/contact/>
- Congressman Lucas: <https://lucas.house.gov/zip-code-lookup?form=/contact/email-me>
- Congressman Cole: <https://cole.house.gov/contact/email>
- Congresswoman Horn: <https://horn.house.gov/contact/>

For Questions / Assistance:

- Bailey Perkins, State Advocacy and Public Policy Director, Oklahoma Food Banks
bperkins@okfoodbank.org or 405-600-3175