

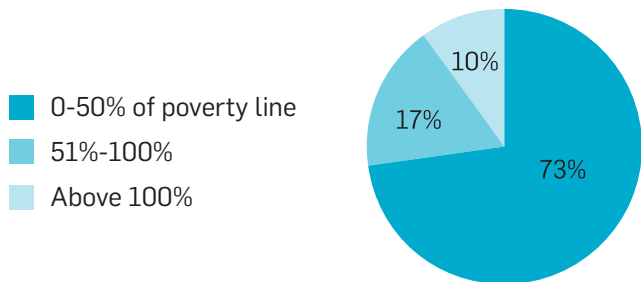
# SNAP's Time Limit: An Unusually Harsh Policy

**SNAP Works:** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) is our most effective and efficient anti-hunger program, making it possible for low-income households to purchase adequate, nutritious food. SNAP benefits help Illinoisans meet their basic needs, reducing poverty and hunger. SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded. In 2016, SNAP benefits contributed \$3 billion to Illinois' economy. Yet a harsh federal policy that may take effect in January 2018 would limit 260,000 able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) from receiving essential food assistance. Illinois currently has a statewide federal waiver of this time-limit, based on our unemployment rate, and qualifies for a continued waiver of this policy in all counties except DuPage in 2018.

**We ask Governor Rauner to request a waiver of this policy from the federal government to ensure this particularly poor, diverse group of Illinoisans does not go hungry.**

**SNAP's Time Limit:** Federal policy limits adults between the ages of 18-49 from receiving food assistance for more than three months in a three-year period unless they are working at least 20 hours a week, living with a child.

## Individuals Subject to SNAP Time Limit Have Very Low Household Incomes



Source: CBPP analysis of the 2014 SNAP household characteristics data.

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## Adults Subject to SNAP Time Limit Don't Fit a Single Profile

### Sex



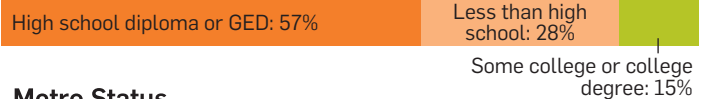
### Age



### Race/Ethnicity



### Education



### Metro Status



Note: The figures above differ from those in Bolen et al. (2016). To better characterize the individuals most likely to lose benefits, Bolen et al. excluded individuals with earnings equal to at least 20 hours a week at the federal minimum wage. The figures above include those individuals to better describe the total group of childless adults potentially subject to the SNAP time limit.

Source: CBPP analysis of 2014 SNAP household characteristics data and March 2015 Current Population Survey (CPS) (for metro status only).

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**Who does the time limit impact?:** The people impacted are a particularly vulnerable group facing poverty, hardship, and hunger. Of these individuals, the vast majority face significant barriers to employment such as mental/physical limitations, low levels of education, chronic homelessness, criminal convictions, a lack of transportation and the need for support services. To make matters worse, many of the childless adults who would be impacted bore the brunt of Illinois' budget crisis and have been without essential supports like employment and job training programs, domestic violence services, mental health and addiction treatment, and homeless services. Childless adults who receive SNAP don't qualify for any other financial assistance.

## The Cost to Illinois:

260,000 hungrier people

\$410 million in federal funding annually

Higher administrative costs

