



60M Kids Auto-Enrolled In Trump Accounts

Number includes
600,000 on LI
A8



Lunching For Less At LI's Best

EXPLORE LI

ONLY IN NEWSDAY

11% LOSE SNAP BENEFITS IN SUFFOLK



UCG / UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP VIA GETTY IMAGES / LINDSEY NICHOLSON

The work rules for SNAP went into place as part of President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

- County's falloff steepest in NYS since new work rules took effect
- In Nassau, 1.8% have lost benefits

A2-3 | UPDATES AT NEWSDAY.COM

YANKS ELIMINATED AFTER CONTROVERSIAL CALL **SPORTS**

Rochell Bishop Sleets
Editor, Chief Content Officer
631-843-3702
rochell.sleets@newsday.com

Baird Helgeson
Managing Editor
631-843-3118
baird.helgeson@newsday.com

Robert Shields
Associate Managing Editor
631-843-4795
robert.shields@newsday.com

Shawna VanNess
Associate Managing Editor
631-843-3264
shawna.vanness@newsday.com

Ben Weller
Senior Assistant Managing Editor
Long Island News
631-843-2715
benjamin.weller@newsday.com

Tracy M. Brown
Assistant Managing Editor
Special Sections
631-843-2312
tracy.brown@newsday.com

Ade Emmanuel
Assistant Managing Editor
Business
631-843-3161
ade.emmanuel@newsday.com

Keith Herbert
Assistant Managing Editor
Investigations
631-843-3478
keith.herbert@newsday.com

Thomas Kupper
Assistant Managing Editor
Towns, Health, Transportation
631-843-3935
thomas.kupper@newsday.com

Andy Levenberg
Assistant Managing Editor
Editing and Presentation
631-843-4818
andy.levenberg@newsday.com

Robert Levin
Assistant Managing Editor
Breaking News
631-843-3108
robert.levin@newsday.com

Monica Quintanilla
Assistant Managing Editor
Public Safety, Crime, Courts
631-843-2917
monica.quintanilla@newsday.com

David Schwartz
Assistant Managing Editor
Government, Politics, Environment
631-843-2718
david.schwartz@newsday.com

Hank Winnicki
Assistant Managing Editor
Sports
631-843-4832
hank.winnicki@newsday.com

MULTIMEDIA

Robert Cassidy
Executive Director Multimedia
631-843-3027
bobby.cassidy@newsday.com

John Keating
Director Multimedia Newsgathering
631-843-5482
john.keating@newsday.com

Business	A21	NYC	A12
Editorial/Opinion	A28	Obituaries	A30
Flash!	A34	Reaching Newsday	A13
Long Island	A12	TV listings	B14
Lottery	A51	Weather	A25
Nation	A18	World	A18

NewsdayTV
Covering Long Island like no one else can
STREAM NOW
newsday.com/newsdaytv



NEWSDAY CUSTOMER SERVICE
1-800-NEWSDAY (800-639-7329)
TO REACH THE NEWSROOM:
631-843-2700
TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

SUBSCRIPTIONS
1-800-NEWSDAY
Your Newsday subscription supports our strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the complete Newsday Experience: 24/7 digital access to Newsday.com and the Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts, push notifications, sweepstakes plus free/reduced admission to Live Events and exclusive webinars.

WEEKLY RATES:
24/7 Digital + 7-Day Print: \$55.99
24/7 Digital + Sunday Print: \$29.99

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Daily & Sunday: \$2,235.48 annually
Daily: \$1,559.48 annually
Sunday: \$1,351.48 annually

Premium Day Editions
All subscriptions include Premium Day editions. Each Premium edition will be charged at the rate of up to \$12.99, in addition to the cost of that day's edition in the billing period when that Premium Day edition publishes. Charges to your account balance for Premium Day editions will result in shortening the length of service covered by your existing payment on account. Premium Day editions scheduled to date: Jan. 4, 2026, Feb. 15, 2026, May 17, 2026, Jul. 5, 2026, Sep. 20, 2026, Nov. 26, 2026.
Newsday will deliver a Dec. 24/25 edition on Dec. 24, containing additional content for Dec. 25. Subscribers will be charged for Dec. 24 and 25 at the current subscription rate for each day. Please see [Newsday.com/hdterms](#) for subscription terms and conditions.

The following pertains to mailed subscriptions as required by the USPS:

Newsday (USPS# 388-760) ISSN 0278-5587 (print) ISSN 2643-9417 (online) is published daily except Sunday and Christmas Day by Newsday LLC, 6 Corporate Center Drive, Melville, N.Y. 11747. Periodicals postage paid at Huntington Station, N.Y. Postmaster: Send address changes to 6 Corporate Center Drive, Melville, N.Y. 11747.

TOP STORIES

FEWER GETTING SNAP

New federal work mandate helped trim enrollment

ONLY IN NEWSDAY

BY ROBERT BRODSKY
robert.brodsky@newsday.com

Nearly 11% of Suffolk County SNAP recipients lost their benefits following the implementation of new federal work requirements — by far the highest level in the state and more than double the percentage in New York City, new statewide data shows.

In February, before the new federal work requirements went into effect, 117,734 Suffolk residents received assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, according to figures from the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

But by July, after the work rules fully went into effect, that figure dropped by 12,443 to 105,291 recipients — a 10.6% decline. In comparison, upstate Monroe County ranked second, losing 5.9% of its SNAP recipients during that period, the data shows.

Meanwhile, the total financial SNAP benefits going to Suffolk residents dropped more than 12% during that period, from \$25.6 million to \$22.5 million, the data shows.

The number of Long Island households receiving SNAP benefits dipped from 105,591 in February to 96,995 in July, while the number of individual recipients dropped from 158,628 to 145,453, the data shows.

Serves 'as a lifeline'

It's not immediately clear why such a high percentage of Suffolk residents lost their SNAP benefits compared with other municipalities, with some experts speculating it could point to a lack of engagement with county or community organizations; delays in processing applications or the municipality employing a more stringent evaluation of benefit availability among its participants.

Vanessa Baird-Streeter, president and chief executive of the Health & Welfare Council of

WHAT NEWSDAY FOUND

■ **Nearly 11% of Suffolk County SNAP recipients** lost their benefits between February and July, following the implementation of new federal work requirements, statewide data shows.

■ **The work rules for SNAP went into place** as part of President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and apply to able-bodied adults without dependents between the ages of 18 and 64 who are medically cleared to work.

■ **The number of Long Island households** receiving SNAP benefits dipped from 105,591 in February to 96,995 in July, while the number of individual recipients dropped from 158,628 to 145,453, the data shows.

Long Island, an umbrella non-profit for about 200 human service groups across the region, said no matter the reason, Suffolk residents suffer without SNAP benefits.

"SNAP benefits serve as a lifeline for individuals and for families," Baird-Streeter said. "There's going to be more families that don't have adequate food to be able to provide for themselves or their families. And that is devastating."

Suffolk officials said more than a third of the recently disenrolled SNAP recipients were disqualified specifically because of the work requirements. The rest were taken off the rolls for failing to recertify, to submit appropriate documents or to respond to automatic state mailings or because the recipient or household had too much income to qualify.

SNAP disenrollments were not felt equally across Long Island. For example, only 732 of Nassau County's 40,894 SNAP recipients, or about 1.8%, lost their benefits between February and July, the data shows.

In New York City, which has the highest number of SNAP recipients in the state at just over 1.7 million, 69,407 SNAP recipients — or 4.1% — were kicked off the rolls between February and July, state figures show.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani said

his administration had assisted more than 220,000 New Yorkers at risk of losing SNAP benefits because of the new work requirements, reducing the number of people projected to lose their benefits by 65%.

"Food should not be a luxury in New York City," Mamdani said in a statement last week. "This year, our administration used every tool at our disposal to help New Yorkers hold on to the food assistance they rely on."

Across the state, 122,797 of its nearly 2.8 million SNAP recipients lost their benefits during the five month period, or about 4.4%, the data shows.

State officials said it's too soon to draw firm conclusions from the data, noting SNAP caseloads change monthly for a host of reasons and multiple months of information are necessary to determine the full impact of the work requirements.

Eligibility reopened

The work rules for SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, went into place as part of President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and apply to able-bodied adults without dependents between the ages of 18 and 64 who are medically cleared to work.

The rules mandate these individuals must work at least 80 hours per month — or participate in a certain number of community service or volunteer hours — or risk losing SNAP benefits after three months.

The GOP legislation also repealed SNAP work exemptions for the homeless, veterans and young adults aging out of foster care while limiting the ability of states to waive work requirements in areas lacking jobs.

The work requirements previously applied to adults ages 18 through 54 who are physically and mentally able to work and who didn't have dependents under age 18.

In mid-May, local social services districts identified 186,822 able-bodied adults without dependents statewide that were subject to the new work requirements, according to the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. By mid-September, that figure had dropped to 116,523, a reduction of 38%, the office said.

State officials said they ex-

BENEFITS IN SUFFOLK AFTER CHANGE

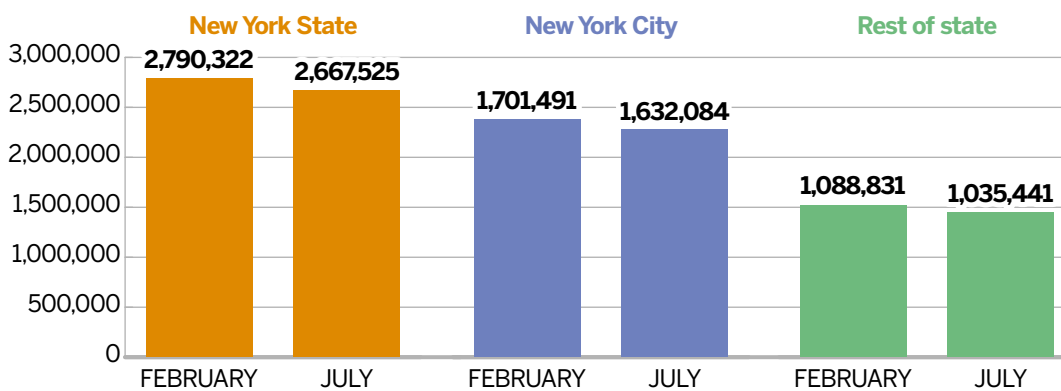


Long Island food pantries have noted an increase in the number of people served since federal government changes to SNAP benefits.

NEWSDAY / DREW SINGH

MORE THAN 4% DECLINE IN SNAP RECIPIENTS

Across the state, 122,797 people lost their benefits. From February to July, the total number of SNAP recipients dropped by more than 4% statewide, in New York City and across the rest of the state.



SOURCE: NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

pect that number to continue to fluctuate in the coming months as applicants come up for recertification.

On Oct. 1, the state reopened eligibility for recipients who were disenrolled from SNAP — the nation's largest nutrition assistance program — because of the work requirements, allowing them to have their benefits temporarily reinstated for three months or until they comply with the work rules.

But individuals who re-enroll and do not comply with the work requirements during those subsequent three months would

then have to wait until October 2029 to receive three months of SNAP assistance.

David Rubel, a public policy consultant who tracks food benefit data, including SNAP, said Long Island municipalities should do a better job of promoting volunteer opportunities that would allow SNAP recipients to comply with the new regulations — a tactic New York City has employed.

"Suffolk County, in particular, has to do a better job in getting the word out there about these opportunities . . ." Rubel said. "The past is the past but there's

still plenty of opportunities to reverse these numbers in the next couple of months."

Among the reasons many healthy SNAP recipients do not work are caregiving responsibilities, a lack of housing, undocumented mental and physical limitations, difficulty finding a job or landing one with necessary benefits, experts said.

Food pantries see upticks

Long Island food pantries said they've seen a significant uptick in residents, particularly from Suffolk, seeking food assistance but noted it's difficult to know if

the increases are directly attributable to the work requirements or connected to seasonality and other external factors.

For example, in February, Long Island Cares-The Harry Chapin Food Bank's Suffolk pantry served 154,207 individuals, said Kim Crawford, a spokeswoman for the organization. By August, that figure had leapt 34% to 207,144 residents, she said.

Nassau also experienced an increase in pantry use during that period of about 8%, the data shows. Meanwhile, first-time Suffolk visitors to Long Island Cares more than doubled between July and August, from 3,013 to 6,409, Crawford said.

"We cannot say that SNAP changes alone caused these increases," Crawford said. "Families are continuing to face a number of pressures, including the cost of food, housing, utilities and other basic necessities. However, the timing is notable."

Gregory May, director of government relations and strategic planning at Island Harvest Food Bank, said they've also seen an increase in the number of Long Islanders, many already struggling with high inflation and gas prices, seeking assistance since the work rules went into effect.

But May warned Island Harvest is ill-suited to make up the

difference from SNAP benefits, which provide an estimated nine meals for every one meal food banks provide.

"We're an emergency food network and we will do everything we can to support our neighbors in need," May said. "But SNAP really needs to be available for as many people as possible."

SNAP recipients

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers SNAP federally, said it cannot verify New York's numbers, contending the state fails to retain required program records, does not properly verify household information, lacks a standardized screening process and has not performed administrative disqualification hearings for more than three years.

"To date, Gov. [Kathy] Hochul has refused access to the state's participant data, meaning the Department of Agriculture can only see limited information," the agency said in a statement. "But what we can see is rather unsettling, particularly for the New York taxpayer."

In a statement, the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance said the administration was "making baseless claims to distract from the fact that they are cruelly cutting a proven effective program that millions of Americans rely on to feed themselves and their families."

The statement noted New York was transitioning to chip card technology to prevent the theft of SNAP benefits and was working with local districts to comply with the job and volunteer requirements.

Roughly 30% of New York SNAP beneficiaries are children and another 31% are elderly or disabled, according to state figures.

The average monthly SNAP benefit in New York is \$376 per household, state officials said.

Roughly 42 million people — or 1 in 8 Americans — receive SNAP benefits, according to federal data. The majority are in households with incomes below the poverty line of \$33,000 for a family of four.

**ALLEGED \$78G
SNAP THEFT
IN SUFFOLK**

A16