No Free Lunch: The Case For Food Stamps/SNAP Reform

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

No Free Lunch: The Case For Food Stamps/SNAP Reform 3

OBSERVATION 1. We offer the following DEFINITIONS. 3

OBSERVATION 2. INHERENCY, the structure of the Status Quo. 3

FACT 1. Work requirements dropped. 3

Federal rules allow states to drop work requirements for food stamp eligibility 3

FACT 2. State waivers lead to massive growth in enrollment. 4

Allowing states to waive the work requirement for food stamp benefits led to massive growth in enrollment 4

FACT 3. 35% of the country exempt 4

65% of the US population live in areas with a work requirement for food stamps, leaving 35% without the work requirement 4

OBSERVATION 3. We offer the following PLAN implemented by Congress and the President 4

OBSERVATION 4. ADVANTAGES. 5

ADVANTAGE 1. Taxpayer savings 5

Using the Maine model work requirement nationwide would save taxpayers over $8 billion/year 5

ADVANTAGE 2. Moral fairness restored. 5

A food stamp work requirement weeds out the unworthy, while helping the truly needy 5

ADVANTAGE 3. Lifting people out of poverty 5

When Kansas added a work requirement, they saw big economic gains for continuing and former food stamp recipients 5

ADVANTAGE 4. Reduced fraud. 6

A work requirement forces those with hidden job income to drop out of welfare 6

ADVANTAGE 5. Culture of Self-sufficiency. We see this in 2 sub-points: 6

The Link: Food stamp work requirement accomplishes the goal of self-sufficiency 6

Impact: Self-sufficiency should be the measure of success for public welfare policy 6

2A Evidence: Food Stamps / SNAP Reform 7

DEFINITIONS & BACKGROUND 7

Congress has made nutrition aid part of “agriculture policy” since the 1930s 7

Definition of ABAWD 7

OPENING QUOTES / AFFIRMATIVE PHILOSOPHY 8

Abraham Lincoln on idleness and work 8

California beach guy collecting food stamps while surfing 8

INHERENCY 8

A/T “Federal govt already has a work requirement” – They had one, then they dropped it, then they reinstated it with loopholes and exceptions 8

Majority of states still receive a partial waiver, so parts of the states are still exempt from work requirement 9

Detailed breakdown on which states have repealed the waiver and reinstated the work requirement 9

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE 10

Rapid increase in able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) on food stamps. 5 million today 10

Over $10 billion per year spent on able-bodied food stamp recipients 10

Able-bodied food stamp enrollees are trapped in government dependency 10

A/T “Food stamp growth is because poverty is growing” – Actually, poverty is declining while food stamps are increasing 11

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY 11

Maine success: 80% of able-bodied adults without dependents quit food stamps when work requirement was imposed 11

Big drop in food stamp rolls when Maine implemented a work requirement 11

Maine work requirement should be extended nationwide – it would substantially reduce food stamp recipients 12

Kansas success: Work requirement reduced ABAWD by 75% and increased average incomes and employment 12

Work requirement promotes self-sufficiency over welfare 12

DISAVANTAGE RESPONSES 12

A/T “States should decide, not federal govt” – 90% of SNAP funding is federal, so federal govt should decide 12

A/T “They can’t afford food” – They could quit smoking. If they can afford cigarettes, they can afford food 13

A/T “The poor will starve” – They have unreported “off the books” income. They’re not as poor as they claim 13

A/T “States don’t have job programs for them to turn to” – Doesn’t matter, they’ll drop off food stamps and not sign up even if they had a program 13

No Free Lunch: The Case For Food Stamps/SNAP Reform

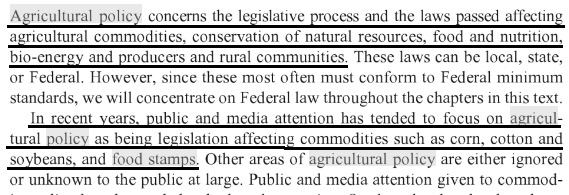
The Apostle Paul said it best in 2 Thessalonians 3:10 “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.“ Today the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP – better known as “food stamps,” needs this vital reform proposed 2000 years ago. Please join my partner and me as we gain the comparative advantages of affirming that The United States federal government should substantially reform its agriculture and/or food safety policy in the United States.

OBSERVATION 1. We offer the following DEFINITIONS.

**Substantial**: “large in amount, size or number” (*Merriam Webster Online Dictionary, copyright 2016* [*http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/substantially*](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/substantially)*)*

**Agriculture Policy:**

Prof. James L. Novak, Dr. James W. Pease, Prof. Larry D. Sanders 2015. (Novak – visiting professor of Agricultural Economics, Auburn Univ. Pease – PhD in agricultural economics; professor of agricultural and applied economics at Virginia Tech Univ. Sanders -  Professor and *Economist,* Dept of Agricultural *Economics*, Oklahoma State Univ) Agricultural Policy in the United States: Evolution and Economics <https://books.google.com/books?id=KXTABgAAQBAJ&pg=PA1&lpg=PA1&dq=%22agricultural+policy%22+%2B+%22food+stamps%22+OR+%22SNAP%22&source=bl&ots=akhFRbKn5N&sig=xld98JG1L3-t2vvdJpG0jhnfsZs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwja0dSjtI7NAhVCOiYKHQN7BRI4ChDoAQg_MAU#v=onepage&q=%22agricultural%20policy%22%20%2B%20%22food%20stamps%22%20OR%20%22SNAP%22&f=false>



**ABAWD:** Able-bodied adults without dependents.

OBSERVATION 2. INHERENCY, the structure of the Status Quo.

This case is about able-bodied adults without dependents who under current law can be on food stamps indefinitely without even trying to look for work, going to school, or doing community service. Federal law normally requires a 3-month time limit before such individuals are kicked off of food stamps – but that requirement has been waived in many cases. We see this in 3 FACTS:

FACT 1. Work requirements dropped.

Federal rules allow states to drop work requirements for food stamp eligibility

Rachel Sheffield and Elmore Wallace 2016 (Sheffield - *Policy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at the Heritage Foundation. Wallace -* member of the Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation) 25 Apr 2016 Kansas Required Work for Food Stamps. Here’s What Happened. <http://dailysignal.com/2016/04/25/kansas-required-work-for-food-stamps-heres-what-happened/>

Over the past several years, the number of Americans on food stamps [has soared](http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent). In particular, since 2009, the number of “able-bodied-adults” without dependents receiving food stamps more than doubled nationally. Part of this increase is due to a federal rule that allowed states to waive food stamps’ modest work requirement.

FACT 2. State waivers lead to massive growth in enrollment.

Allowing states to waive the work requirement for food stamp benefits led to massive growth in enrollment

Shawn Bevans 2015 (journalist) “Here Are the States That Now Have Work Requirements for Food Stamp Recipients” Nov 2015 INDEPENDENT JOURNAL <http://www.ijreview.com/2015/11/468478-here-are-the-states-that-now-have-work-requirements-for-food-stamp-recipients/>

In recent years, our nation has developed what many see as a food stamp problem. In 2013, the “Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program” (SNAP) reached an unprecedented [48 million](http://www.forbes.com/sites/theapothecary/2015/08/11/restoring-work-requirements-an-important-fix-to-americas-food-stamp-crisis/) individuals, making it one of the largest and fastest growing welfare entitlement programs. The cost of this program, according to the [Foundation for Government Accountability](http://thefga.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/RestoringWorkRequirements-ResearchPaper-Final.pdf), was a grand total of $80 billion in 2013 alone. That’s nearly quadruple the amount spent on food stamps in 2000:  
Many place blame on the Obama administration for allowing states to waive the [work requirement](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-obama-has-gutted-welfore-reform/2012/09/06/885b0092-f835-11e1-8b93-c4f4ab1c8d13_story.html) for food stamp benefits – which was established by President Clinton in 1996. This year, a total of 42 states had at least partially waived the work requirement for SNAP assistance.

FACT 3. 35% of the country exempt

65% of the US population live in areas with a work requirement for food stamps, leaving 35% without the work requirement

Ed Bolen, Dottie Rosenbaum, Stacy Dean, Brynne Keith-Jennings 2016. (Bolen – J.D., senior policy analyst with Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). Rosenbaum – master’s degree in Public Policy; senior fellow with CBPP. Dean – master’s degree in Public Policy; Vice President of CBPP for Food Assistance Policy. Keith-Jennings – master’s degree in Public Policy; research analyst at CBPP) updated 18 March 2016 “More Than 500,000 Adults Will Lose SNAP Benefits in 2016 as Waivers Expire” <http://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/more-than-500000-adults-will-lose-snap-benefits-in-2016-as-waivers-expire>

In 2016, the three-month time limit will be in effect in areas with about 65 percent of the U.S. population; the rest of the country has sufficiently high and persistent unemployment to continue qualifying for waivers and states have sought them.  By contrast, in 2015, the time limit was only in effect in areas with about 30 percent of the country’s population.

OBSERVATION 3. We offer the following PLAN implemented by Congress and the President

1. Work Requirement. Congress votes to apply nationwide and permanently the Maine work requirement rules to all able-bodied adults without dependents in SNAP. Food stamp recipients will be required to work, look for work, do job training, go to school, or do community service, or else benefits are terminated after 3 months.

2. No waivers. State waivers will be ended permanently.

3. Funding through existing agencies and existing budgets with net reduction in federal spending.

4. Enforcement through existing US Dept of Agriculture and FBI investigation and existing laws against food stamp fraud.   
5. Plan takes effect Oct 1, 2017.  
6. Affirmative speeches may clarify

OBSERVATION 4. ADVANTAGES.

**We solve for the remaining 35% of the country still under waivers, and we prevent the problem from happening again with a permanent ban on future waivers. We see this in 5 Advantages.**

ADVANTAGE 1. Taxpayer savings

Using the Maine model work requirement nationwide would save taxpayers over $8 billion/year

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent> (brackets added; parentheses in original)

The federal government should establish work requirements similar to Maine’s for the 4.7 million ABAWDs [able-bodied adults without dependents] currently receiving food stamps nationwide. If the caseload drops at the same rate it did in Maine (which is very likely), taxpayer savings would be over $8.4 billion per year.

ADVANTAGE 2. Moral fairness restored.

A food stamp work requirement weeds out the unworthy, while helping the truly needy

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation . Sheffield - Policy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis of the Institute for Economic Freedom and Opportunity, at The Heritage Foundation) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

A serious work requirement is an effective gatekeeping device. It allows program administrators to separate those who truly need the aid from others who need assistance less but are willing to take a free handout if it is offered. Historical experience shows that a serious work requirement will rapidly reduce welfare caseloads because most recipients who do not need the aid offered will fail to show up to perform the required activity and therefore be removed from the rolls. The Maine ABAWD policy is the latest example of this process.

ADVANTAGE 3. Lifting people out of poverty

When Kansas added a work requirement, they saw big economic gains for continuing and former food stamp recipients

Rachel Sheffield and Elmore Wallace 2016 (Sheffield - *Policy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at the Heritage Foundation. Wallace -* member of the Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation) 25 Apr 2016 Kansas Required Work for Food Stamps. Here’s What Happened. <http://dailysignal.com/2016/04/25/kansas-required-work-for-food-stamps-heres-what-happened/>

According to a report from the Foundation for Government Accountability, before [Kansas](http://thefga.org/research/report-the-power-of-work-how-kansas-welfare-reform-is-lifting-americans-out-of-poverty/) instituted a work requirement, 93 percent of food stamp recipients were in poverty, with 84 percent in severe poverty. Few of the food stamp recipients claimed any income. Only 21 percent were working at all, and two-fifths of those working were working fewer than 20 hours per week. Once work requirements were established, thousands of [food stamp recipients](http://thefga.org/research/report-the-power-of-work-how-kansas-welfare-reform-is-lifting-americans-out-of-poverty/) moved into the workforce, promoting income gains and a decrease in poverty. Forty percent of the individuals who left the food stamp ranks found employment within three months, and about 60 percent found employment within a year. They saw an average income increase of 127 percent. Half of those who left the rolls and are working have earnings above the poverty level. Even many of those who stayed on food stamps saw their income increase significantly.

ADVANTAGE 4. Reduced fraud.

A work requirement forces those with hidden job income to drop out of welfare

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

Workfare reduces fraud by decreasing the opportunity for individuals to receive a welfare check while maintaining an unreported job. In food stamp, TANF, and other welfare programs, monthly benefits are reduced as earnings increase. A prevalent type of fraud involves recipients who fail to report employment to the welfare office or who work off the books. By hiding their employment, these individuals illegally receive both full welfare benefits and a wage. A rigorous workfare program that, for example, requires a recipient to be at a supervised job search or training site each day can eliminate this type of fraud because the recipient cannot be in two places at once. He cannot be at the welfare office and his hidden job simultaneously. Faced with a rigorous workfare requirement, most recipients with hidden jobs will simply drop off the welfare rolls.

ADVANTAGE 5. Culture of Self-sufficiency. We see this in 2 sub-points:

The Link: Food stamp work requirement accomplishes the goal of self-sufficiency

Rachel Zenger and Rachel Sheffield 2016 (Zenger – member of the Young Leaders Program at Heritage Foundation. Sheffield - policy analyst in the DeVos Center for Religion & Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation) 8 Apr 2016 “Why More States Are Requiring Work Requirements for Food Stamps” <http://dailysignal.com/2016/04/08/why-more-states-are-requiring-work-requirements-for-food-stamps/>

Welfare assistance should be available to those in need, but policy should encourage self-sufficiency for able-bodied adults rather than simply provide a one-way government handout. The examples of Kansas and Maine show that work requirements accomplished what they are intended to do: Encourage self-sufficiency. Work requirements promote greater self-reliance and establish reciprocal obligation between the beneficiary and the taxpayers who provide the benefits.

Impact: Self-sufficiency should be the measure of success for public welfare policy

Robert Rector 2016 (master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation*) 15 Mar 2016 Self-Sufficiency, Not Government Spending, Should Be the Measure of Antipoverty Progress <http://dailysignal.com/2016/03/15/self-sufficiency-not-government-spending-should-be-the-measure-of-antipoverty-progress/> (brackets added)

Paradoxically, in the decade and a half before the start of War on Poverty, low-income Americans experienced [dramatic improvements in self-sufficiency](https://medium.com/2015-index-of-culture-and-opportunity/self-sufficiency-5dee86110477#.k8sr8ve7p). The share of Americans who lacked self-sufficiency was cut nearly in half, falling from 32 percent in 1950 to 17 percent in 1965. But a few years after the War on Poverty began, this progress came to a grinding halt. For nearly a half-century, there has been no improvement in self-sufficiency at all. During that time, welfare spending has cost taxpayers over $23 trillion; in reality, the War on Poverty has been a remarkably expensive flop. HHS [US Dept of Health & Human Services] and national policymakers [need to focus on expanding Americans’ self-sufficiency](http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/setting-priorities-for-welfare-reform), not enlarging the government welfare programs, as the measure of success.

2A Evidence: Food Stamps / SNAP Reform

DEFINITIONS & BACKGROUND

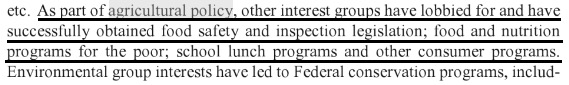
Congress has made nutrition aid part of “agriculture policy” since the 1930s

**Amy Mayer** 2014 (Harvest Public Media's reporter based at Iowa Public Radio) 6 Feb 2014 “The uneasy marriage of food stamps and the farm bill” <http://harvestpublicmedia.org/article/uneasy-marriage-food-stamps-and-farm-bill>

Though it’s often called the “farm bill,” it funds both farm subsidies and food stamps. In years past, linking the two in one bill meant most legislators had a vested interest in getting it done. But with Congress sharply divided on funding for food stamps – called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – the farm bill looked hopeless at times.  
**A marriage of convenience**The previous farm bill expired in the fall of 2012. [It took years of negotiation](http://harvestpublicmedia.org/article/farm-bill-falls-victim-polarization-gridlock-washington), and numerous failed bills, before Congress could agree on a compromise acceptable to the Republican majority in the U.S. House, the Democratic majority in the Senate and the Democratic president. “This difficult process we went through over the last couple of years helped illuminate a lot of the fault lines and the places of tension between those different components of the political spectrum,” said Neil Hamilton, director of the Agricultural Law Center at Drake University in Des Moines. Since the earliest farm supports in the 1930s, the link between those who grow food and those who need it has been part of federal agriculture policy.

**Agriculture Policy includes nutrition programs for the poor**

Prof. James L. Novak, Dr. James W. Pease, Prof. Larry D. Sanders 2015. (Novak – visiting professor of Agricultural Economics, Auburn Univ. Pease – PhD in agricultural economics; professor of agricultural and applied economics at Virginia Tech Univ. Sanders -  Professor and *Economist,* Dept of Agricultural *Economics*, Oklahoma State Univ) Agricultural Policy in the United States: Evolution and Economics <https://books.google.com/books?id=KXTABgAAQBAJ&pg=PA1&lpg=PA1&dq=%22agricultural+policy%22+%2B+%22food+stamps%22+OR+%22SNAP%22&source=bl&ots=akhFRbKn5N&sig=xld98JG1L3-t2vvdJpG0jhnfsZs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwja0dSjtI7NAhVCOiYKHQN7BRI4ChDoAQg_MAU#v=onepage&q=%22agricultural%20policy%22%20%2B%20%22food%20stamps%22%20OR%20%22SNAP%22&f=false>



Definition of ABAWD

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

One group that has significantly increased its participation in the food stamp program is “able-bodied adults without dependents” (ABAWDs). Under the federal definition, an individual is considered an “able-bodied adult without dependents” if he or she is between 18 and 49 years of age, is not caring for a child under age 18 or residing in a household with a child under age 18, is not physically or mentally disabled, and is not pregnant.

OPENING QUOTES / AFFIRMATIVE PHILOSOPHY

Abraham Lincoln on idleness and work

Rachel Sheffield and Elmore Wallace 2016 (Sheffield - *Policy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at the Heritage Foundation. Wallace -* member of the Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation) 25 Apr 2016 Kansas Required Work for Food Stamps. Here’s What Happened. <http://dailysignal.com/2016/04/25/kansas-required-work-for-food-stamps-heres-what-happened/>

Abraham Lincoln once [said](https://books.google.com/books?id=gKPfAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA582&lpg=PA582&dq=No+country+can+sustain,+in+idleness,+more+than+a+small+percentage+of+its+numbers.+The+great+majority+must+labor+at+something+productive.&source=bl&ots=DWYHfLc6mp&sig=3qcmee4DyOt86fFyx2t4_MJQYz0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj-3_eo3OHLAhWGrB4KHVNUCwgQ6AEILzAF#v=onepage&q=No%20country%20can%20sustain%2C%20in%20idleness%2C%20more%20than%20a%20small%20percentage%20of%20its%20numbers.%20The%20great%20majority%20must%20labor%20at%20something%20productive.&f=false), “No country can sustain, in idleness, more than a small percentage of its numbers. The great majority must labor at something productive.”

California beach guy collecting food stamps while surfing

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent> (brackets added)

ABAWDs [able-bodied adults without dependents] gained notoriety in August 2013, when Fox News aired a documentary on food stamps featuring 29-year-old Jason Greenslate, a California resident who reported that he spends his time surfing and playing in his rock band, all the while receiving benefits from the food stamp program.

INHERENCY

A/T “Federal govt already has a work requirement” – They had one, then they dropped it, then they reinstated it with loopholes and exceptions

Robert Rector, Rachel Sheffield and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

In early 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) applied a blanket waiver to the work requirement, suspending the entire ABAWD work requirement through FY 2010 for all states (unless a state chose to operate a work program for ABAWDs). For fiscal years 2011 through 2013, the vast majority of states (between 46 and 49, depending on the year) continued to receive statewide waivers linked to their eligibility for extended unemployment benefits.  In FY 2014, 42 states qualified for statewide waivers. During FY 2015, 37 qualified. In October 2015, the USDA issued a letter noting that in 2016, states will no longer be eligible for broad statewide waivers due to eligibility for extended unemployment benefits because Congress has ended those benefits. However, states will still be able to exempt 15 percent of the ABAWD caseload from the work requirement and to receive statewide or area-specific waivers based on high unemployment or “lack of sufficient jobs.”

Majority of states still receive a partial waiver, so parts of the states are still exempt from work requirement

Rachel Zenger and Rachel Sheffield 2016 (Zenger – member of the Young Leaders Program at Heritage Foundation. Sheffield - policy analyst in the DeVos Center for Religion & Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation) 8 Apr 2016 “Why More States Are Requiring Work Requirements for Food Stamps” <http://dailysignal.com/2016/04/08/why-more-states-are-requiring-work-requirements-for-food-stamps/>

The food stamps program is one of the largest government means-tested welfare programs. Participation grew rapidly, increasing from 28.2 million in the 2008 fiscal year to 45.8 million in the 2015 fiscal year (participation peaked in 2013 with 47.6 million participants). The [most rapid growth](http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent) was among able-bodied adults without dependents, which jumped from just under 2 million in 2008 to [4.7](http://www.heritage.org/~/media/infographics/2016/02/b-3091/bg-maine-food-stamp-requirement-chart-1.ashx) million in 2014. Part of the reason for the increase was that Obama’s stimulus package waived food stamps’ work requirement. This required those who are adults and able to work and who don’t have children to work part-time (or do some type of work activity) in order to get food stamps. If not, their benefits would be limited to three months. After 2009, [most](http://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/more-than-500000-adults-will-lose-snap-benefits-in-2016-as-waivers-expire) states continued to receive waivers until this year. Even now, however, the majority of states still receive a partial waiver, meaning that parts of states are exempt from the work requirement.

Detailed breakdown on which states have repealed the waiver and reinstated the work requirement

**Note: In this card the phrases “parts of the state” and “some or all of the state” refer to the fact that a waiver can be state-wide or only in certain counties. Even though a state re-imposes the work requirement (i.e. drops the waiver), they might not have to, and therefore might not do it, in the entire state, leaving open sections of that state where people don’t have to work to be on food stamps (i.e. the waiver still applies in some parts of the state). That explains the apparent contradiction between the card here, which says only 8 states still have the waiver, and the card above that says a majority of states have a waiver. While 8 have the full statewide waiver, many others still have partial waivers. The 8 full states plus the population of counties in other states where people live with partial waivers add up to 35% of the country’s population, as noted in the 1AC inherency card.**

Ed Bolen, Dottie Rosenbaum, Stacy Dean, Brynne Keith-Jennings 2016. (Bolen – J.D., senior policy analyst with Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). Rosenbaum – master’s degree in Public Policy; senior fellow with CBPP. Dean – master’s degree in Public Policy; Vice President of CBPP for Food Assistance Policy. Keith-Jennings – master’s degree in Public Policy; research analyst at CBPP) updated 18 March 2016 “More Than 500,000 Adults Will Lose SNAP Benefits in 2016 as Waivers Expire” <http://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/more-than-500000-adults-will-lose-snap-benefits-in-2016-as-waivers-expire>

The 19 states that must reimpose the time limit in 2016 because parts of the state no longer qualify for a waiver are:  Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Washington.  The three states that are choosing to reimpose the time limit in some or all of the state in 2016 even though the state qualifies for a statewide waiver are: Mississippi, South Carolina, and West Virginia.  Seven states (California, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, and Rhode Island) and Washington, D.C., Guam, and the Virgin Islands are eligible for statewide waivers and will waive the entire state from the limit.  Louisiana re-implemented the time limit in October 2015 under then-Governor Bobby Jindal.  Current Governor John Bel Edwards requested and received a statewide waiver prior to the state having to terminate benefits to the group subject to the time limit.  All other states implemented the time limit prior to 2016 either because they lost eligibility for a statewide waiver or because they chose to implement the time limit.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

Rapid increase in able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) on food stamps. 5 million today

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

Growth in the food stamp caseload occurred particularly rapidly among able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). These are work-capable adults between the ages of 18 and 49 who do not have children or other dependents to support. The ABAWD food stamp caseload grew by nearly 150 percent between 2008 and 2014 and has risen from nearly 2 million recipients in 2008 to around 5 million today.

Over $10 billion per year spent on able-bodied food stamp recipients

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

The food stamp program is the nation’s second largest means-tested welfare program; its costs have risen from $20.7 billion in 2000 to $83.1 billion in 2014. Contributing to this rapid expansion is the enrollment of able-bodied adults without dependents, which has risen from nearly 2 million in 2008 to around 4.7 million today. Benefits to these individuals and related administrative expenses cost the taxpayers around $10.5 billion per year.

Able-bodied food stamp enrollees are trapped in government dependency

Jonathan Ingram and Nic Horton 2015 (Ingram – Research Director. Horton – Policy Impact Specialist. Both are with Foundation for Government Accountability) 5 Aug 2015 “SNAP to it: Restoring WorkRequirements Will Help Solve the Food Stamp Crisis” <http://thefga.org/download/2015_policy_solutions/RestoringWorkRequirements-ResearchPaper-Final(3).pdf>

Although federal law requires these adults to work in order to receive food stamps, the Obama administration has awarded an unprecedented number of waivers to states, allowing able-bodied childless adults to receive taxpayer-funded food stamp benefits without working at all. The problem may seem purely fiscal: food stamp spending is consuming a growing portion of the federal budget, putting at risk other critical spending priorities. But the consequences of this enrollment explosion go beyond just billions of dollars. The elimination of work requirements has resulted in more people remaining trapped in government dependency for far longer than they otherwise would, has kept more people in poverty, has stymied economic growth, and has contributed to a massive expansion of the welfare state.

A/T “Food stamp growth is because poverty is growing” – Actually, poverty is declining while food stamps are increasing

Jonathan Ingram and Nic Horton 2015 (Ingram – Research Director. Horton – Policy Impact Specialist. Both are with Foundation for Government Accountability) 5 Aug 2015 “SNAP to it: Restoring WorkRequirements Will Help Solve the Food Stamp Crisis” <http://thefga.org/download/2015_policy_solutions/RestoringWorkRequirements-ResearchPaper-Final(3).pdf>

The food stamp program, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is one of the largest and fastest-growing welfare entitlements in the federal budget. The number of people receiving food stamps reached nearly 48 million in 2013, a record high. That is a whopping 177 percent more than the 17 million Americans enrolled in 2000.For comparison, the U.S. population grew just 12 percent over this same time period. Worse yet, even though poverty rates are declining, the number of people receiving food stamps continues to climb. To put this in perspective, total non-farm employment has risen by just three percent since 2000, despite the fact that the Great Recession ended in June 2009.

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY

Maine success: 80% of able-bodied adults without dependents quit food stamps when work requirement was imposed

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

In response to the growth in food stamp dependence, Maine’s Governor, Paul LePage, recently established work requirements on ABAWD recipients. In Maine, all ABAWDs in the food stamp program are now required to take a job, participate in training, or perform community service. Job openings for lower-skill workers are abundant in Maine, and for those ABAWD recipients who cannot find immediate employment, Maine offers both training and community service slots. In response to the new work requirement, however, most ABAWDs in Maine refused to participate in training or community service, despite vigorous outreach efforts by the government to encourage participation. When ABAWD recipients refused to participate, their food stamp benefits ceased. In the first three months after Maine’s work policy went into effect, its ABAWD caseload plummeted by nearly 80 percent, falling from 13,332 recipients in December 2014 to 2,678 in March 2015.

Big drop in food stamp rolls when Maine implemented a work requirement

Cathy Burke 2015 (journalist) 28 Dec 2015 “Could Maine's Food Stamp Solution Be Used Nationwide?” NEWSMAX <https://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/maine-food-stamp-welfare-reform/2015/12/28/id/707324/>

Food stamp rolls in Maine have plummeted in a year in what conservatives are proclaiming is a welfare reform victory that could be an example for the nation. [**According to the Washington Examiner,**](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/how-1-state-is-solving-the-food-stamp-issue/article/2577994) the number of healthy adults without dependents who get food stamps fell by more than 90 percent, from 13,589 last year to 1,206 through mid-November. In the fall of 2014, conservative Maine Gov. Paul LePage – who has run on a promise of welfare reform – started [**new work rules**](http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/food-stamp-new-regulations/2015/04/12/id/637951/) for food-stamp recipients that mandated any adult without children and who's able to work must do so at least part time, participate in job-training programs or volunteer to receive food stamp benefits.

Maine work requirement should be extended nationwide – it would substantially reduce food stamp recipients

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

Federal policy should establish a mandatory work requirement for ABAWDs in the food stamp program, requiring each state to have all of its ABAWD population working, preparing for work, or participating in job search. Requiring ABAWDs to work, prepare for work, or look for work in exchange for receiving benefits would be wise public policy; it would ensure that the program promotes self-sufficiency and that benefits are going to those who most need them. The example of Maine shows that a federal work requirement is likely to reduce ABAWD food stamp participation substantially.

Kansas success: Work requirement reduced ABAWD by 75% and increased average incomes and employment

Rachel Zenger and Rachel Sheffield 2016 (Zenger – member of the Young Leaders Program at Heritage Foundation. Sheffield - policy analyst in the DeVos Center for Religion & Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation) 8 Apr 2016 “Why More States Are Requiring Work Requirements for Food Stamps” <http://dailysignal.com/2016/04/08/why-more-states-are-requiring-work-requirements-for-food-stamps/>

After [Kansas](http://thefga.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/PowerOfWork-KansasWelfareReform.pdf) ended its work requirement waiver in 2013, it saw a 75-percent decline in its caseload of able-bodied adults with dependents. For those who left the program, average income increased within a year, from $2,453 annually to $5,562 annually: an amount greater than their previous income and food stamp benefits combined. For those still on food stamps, the work requirement led to more employment and higher incomes.

Work requirement promotes self-sufficiency over welfare

Joseph Lawler 2015 (journalist) 14 Dec 2015 “How one state is solving the food stamp problem” WASHINGTON EXAMINER <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/how-1-state-is-solving-the-food-stamp-issue/article/2577994>

Maine is "an example of how a work requirement promotes work and self-sufficiency over welfare," said Rachel Sheffield, a poverty analyst at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank. "You don't want to cut anybody off," Sheffield said, noting that assistance is available for people who want to work.

DISAVANTAGE RESPONSES

A/T “States should decide, not federal govt” – 90% of SNAP funding is federal, so federal govt should decide

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

Some may argue that individual state governments, not the federal government, should choose whether to require work or training in the food stamp program. But over 90 percent of food stamp funding comes from the federal government. Since the federal government pays for nearly the entire food stamp program, it has the right and obligation to establish the moral principles on which the program operates.

A/T “They can’t afford food” – They could quit smoking. If they can afford cigarettes, they can afford food

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

As Table 1 shows, over 50 percent of ABAWDs smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days. These ABAWDs smoked almost every day, consuming on average 19 packs of cigarettes during the month. The average cost of these cigarettes was around $111 per month. This sum equals 63 percent of the food costs for a single adult under the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s “thrifty food plan” (the USDA standard for an economical, nutritious diet). In other words, these individuals are spending nearly two-thirds of monthly expected food costs on cigarettes and then relying on taxpayers to provide for their food expenses through the food stamp program. Food stamp benefits allow these individuals to divert cash resources from food purchases to cigarettes. Food stamps therefore enable heavy cigarette use in the ABAWD group.

A/T “The poor will starve” – They have unreported “off the books” income. They’re not as poor as they claim

[Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector), [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield) and Dr. Kevin Dayaratna 2016 (Rector - master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with *DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation* . Sheffield - P*olicy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation. Davaratna – PhD; Senior Statistician and Research Programmer at Center for Data Analysis*) 8 Feb 2016 Maine Food Stamp Work Requirement Cuts Non-Parent Caseload by 80 Percent <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent>

For example, an analysis done in the early 1990s of single mothers receiving AFDC benefits found that each month, around 40 percent of mothers had off-the-books income that they did not report to the welfare office. Those with off-the-books income reported around $425 per month (in current dollars) in hidden income. Because single mothers have more obstacles to employment than ABAWDs, these figures suggest that ABAWDs may have very high levels of unreported income.

A/T “States don’t have job programs for them to turn to” – Doesn’t matter, they’ll drop off food stamps and not sign up even if they had a program

Rachel Zenger and Rachel Sheffield 2016 (Zenger – member of the Young Leaders Program at Heritage Foundation. Sheffield - policy analyst in the DeVos Center for Religion & Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation) 8 Apr 2016 “Why More States Are Requiring Work Requirements for Food Stamps” <http://dailysignal.com/2016/04/08/why-more-states-are-requiring-work-requirements-for-food-stamps/>

A common concern is that those people choosing not to fulfill the work requirement lack adequate assistance to meet the requirements, but the numerous options for work, training, and community service provided by the state of Maine were met with [very little response](http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent). As reported in a [previous](http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/02/maine-food-stamp-work-requirement-cuts-non-parent-caseload-by-80-percent) Heritage Foundation article, “when the Maine Department of Health and Human Services conducted outreach to about 700 able bodied adults without dependents in Portland to inform them about a volunteer program that could fulfill the community service work requirement, only about 15 of the 700 contacted responded.”

Works Cited: Food Stamps/SNAP

1. Amy Mayer 2014 (Harvest Public Media's reporter based at Iowa Public Radio) 6 Feb 2014 “The uneasy marriage of food stamps and the farm bill” <http://harvestpublicmedia.org/article/uneasy-marriage-food-stamps-and-farm-bill>
2. Cathy Burke 2015 (journalist) 28 Dec 2015 “Could Maine's Food Stamp Solution Be Used Nationwide?” NEWSMAX <https://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/maine-food-stamp-welfare-reform/2015/12/28/id/707324/>
3. Ed Bolen, Dottie Rosenbaum, Stacy Dean, Brynne Keith-Jennings 2016. (Bolen – J.D., senior policy analyst with Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). Rosenbaum – master’s degree in Public Policy; senior fellow with CBPP. Dean – master’s degree in Public Policy; Vice President of CBPP for Food Assistance Policy. Keith-Jennings – master’s degree in Public Policy; research analyst at CBPP) updated 18 March 2016 “More Than 500,000 Adults Will Lose SNAP Benefits in 2016 as Waivers Expire” <http://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/more-than-500000-adults-will-lose-snap-benefits-in-2016-as-waivers-expire>
4. Jonathan Ingram and Nic Horton 2015 (Ingram – Research Director. Horton – Policy Impact Specialist. Both are with Foundation for Government Accountability) 5 Aug 2015 “SNAP to it: Restoring WorkRequirements Will Help Solve the Food Stamp Crisis” <http://thefga.org/download/2015_policy_solutions/RestoringWorkRequirements-ResearchPaper-Final(3).pdf>
5. Joseph Lawler 2015 (journalist) 14 Dec 2015 “How one state is solving the food stamp problem” WASHINGTON EXAMINER <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/how-1-state-is-solving-the-food-stamp-issue/article/2577994>
6. Prof. James L. Novak, Dr. James W. Pease, Prof. Larry D. Sanders 2015. (Novak – visiting professor of Agricultural Economics, Auburn Univ. Pease – PhD in agricultural economics; professor of agricultural and applied economics at Virginia Tech Univ. Sanders -  Professor and Economist, Dept of Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State Univ) Agricultural Policy in the United States: Evolution and Economics <https://books.google.com/books?id=KXTABgAAQBAJ&pg=PA1&lpg=PA1&dq=%22agricultural+policy%22+%2B+%22food+stamps%22+OR+%22SNAP%22&source=bl&ots=akhFRbKn5N&sig=xld98JG1L3-t2vvdJpG0jhnfsZs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwja0dSjtI7NAhVCOiYKHQN7BRI4ChDoAQg_MAU#v=onepage&q=%22agricultural%20policy%22%20%2B%20%22food%20stamps%22%20OR%20%22SNAP%22&f=false>
7. Rachel Sheffield and Elmore Wallace 2016 (Sheffield - Policy Analyst at DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at the Heritage Foundation. Wallace - member of the Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation) 25 Apr 2016 Kansas Required Work for Food Stamps. Here’s What Happened. <http://dailysignal.com/2016/04/25/kansas-required-work-for-food-stamps-heres-what-happened/>
8. Rachel Zenger and Rachel Sheffield 2016 (Zenger – member of the Young Leaders Program at Heritage Foundation. Sheffield - policy analyst in the DeVos Center for Religion & Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation) 8 Apr 2016 “Why More States Are Requiring Work Requirements for Food Stamps” <http://dailysignal.com/2016/04/08/why-more-states-are-requiring-work-requirements-for-food-stamps/>
9. Robert Rector 2016 (master’s degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University, with DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage Foundation) 15 Mar 2016 Self-Sufficiency, Not Government Spending, Should Be the Measure of Antipoverty Progress <http://dailysignal.com/2016/03/15/self-sufficiency-not-government-spending-should-be-the-measure-of-antipoverty-progress/>
10. Shawn Bevans 2015 (journalist) “Here Are the States That Now Have Work Requirements for Food Stamp Recipients” Nov 2015 INDEPENDENT JOURNAL <http://www.ijreview.com/2015/11/468478-here-are-the-states-that-now-have-work-requirements-for-food-stamp-recipients/>