

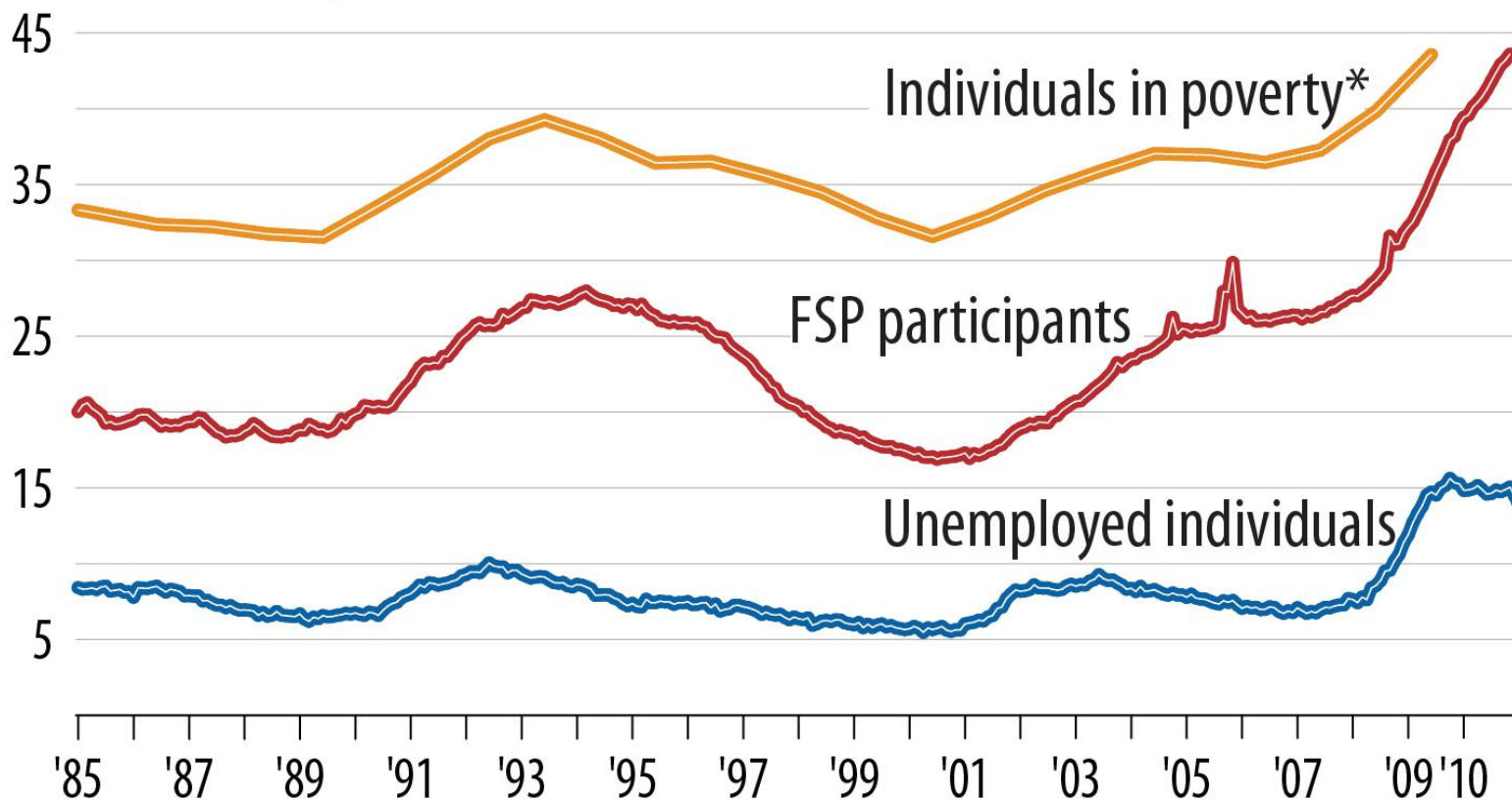
2011 CalFresh Forum: A Fresh Perspective on SNAP

Stacy Dean

February 9, 2011

Food Stamps Closely Tracks Changes in Poverty and Unemployment

In millions, through November 2010



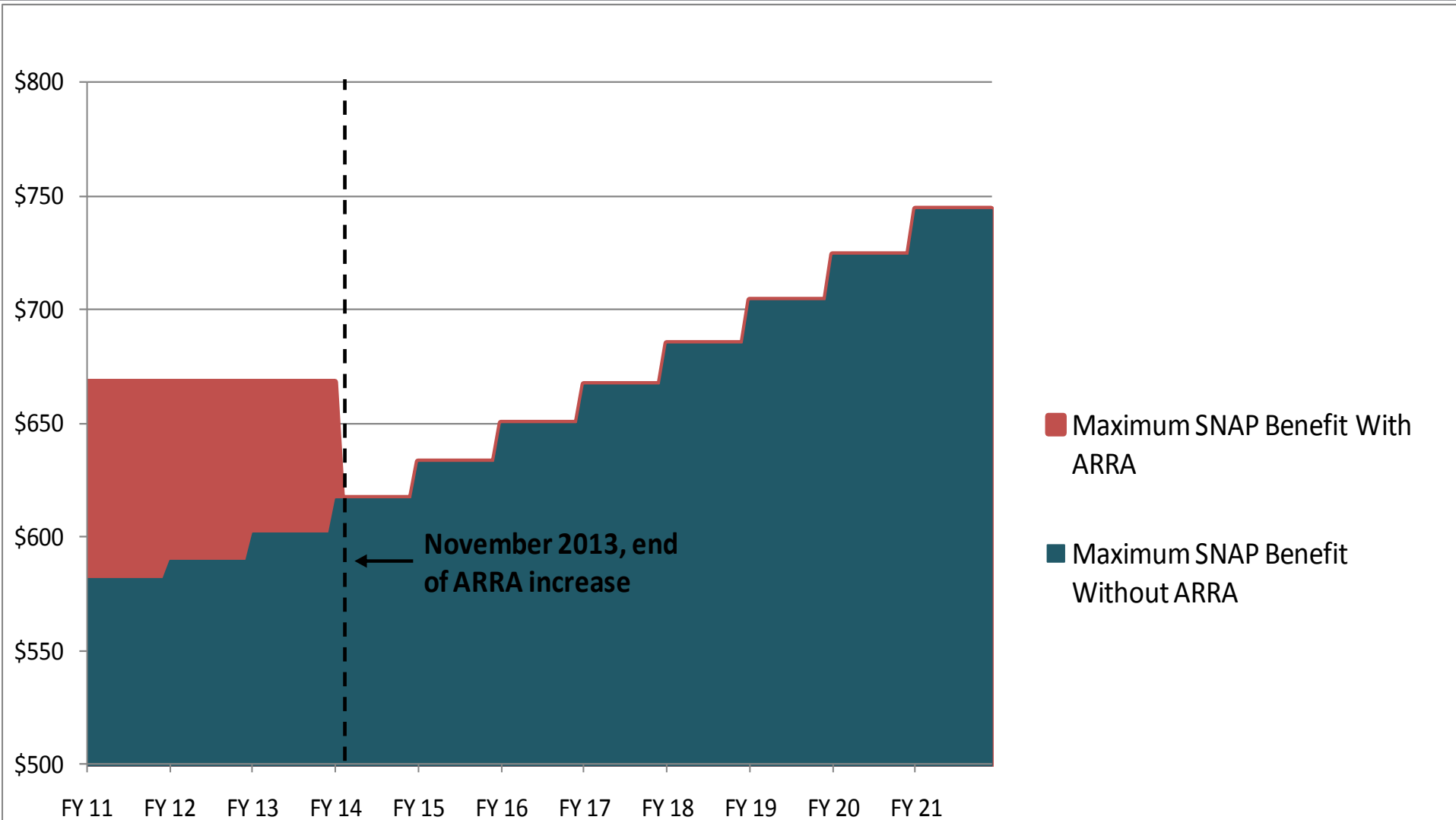
*Poverty numbers are annual estimates and not yet available after 2009.

Spikes in food stamp participants are from disaster food stamps after hurricanes.

Sources: Food and Nutrition Service (Food Stamp Program participants); Census Bureau (individuals in poverty);

Bureau of Labor Statistics (unemployed individuals)

Maximum SNAP Benefits With and Without ARRA (Family of Four)

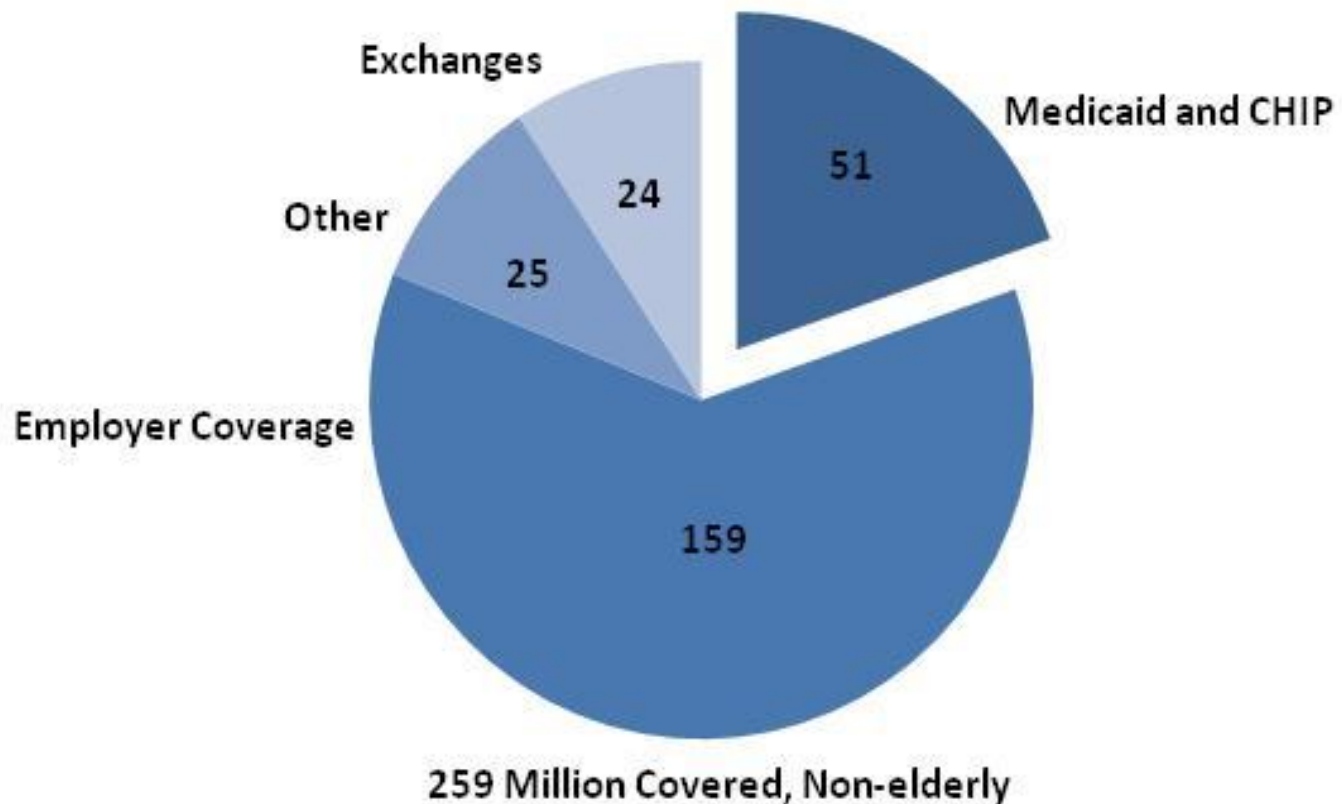


Health Care Coverage – A Transformation

- Major Medicaid Eligibility Expansion
- Streamlined Medicaid Eligibility Test
 - MAGI (with Medicaid “point in time” and “countable sources of income rules”)
- Subsidized Coverage Through Exchanges
- MOE for Current Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility

The Environment: What's Coming?

Medicaid and CHIP Will Serve 51 Million People in 2019 with Successful Implementation of the Health Reform Law



Source: Congressional Budget Office

Streamlined Enrollment

- Single Application Form for All Programs
- Minimum Documentation Standard
- Application Online, By Phone, In Person, By Mail
- No Wrong Door
- “Screen and Enroll” Promotes Seamless Coverage, Transitions

New Coverage Imperative

- Individual Mandate
- Children Must Be Enrolled When Parents Enroll
- Consumer Assistance

Paradigm Shift To Universal Coverage

Unprecedented Challenges...

- Financial and Political
- Complexities of New Rules
- Systems Upgrades
- Local Administration
- Culture Change
- Rapid Pace of Change

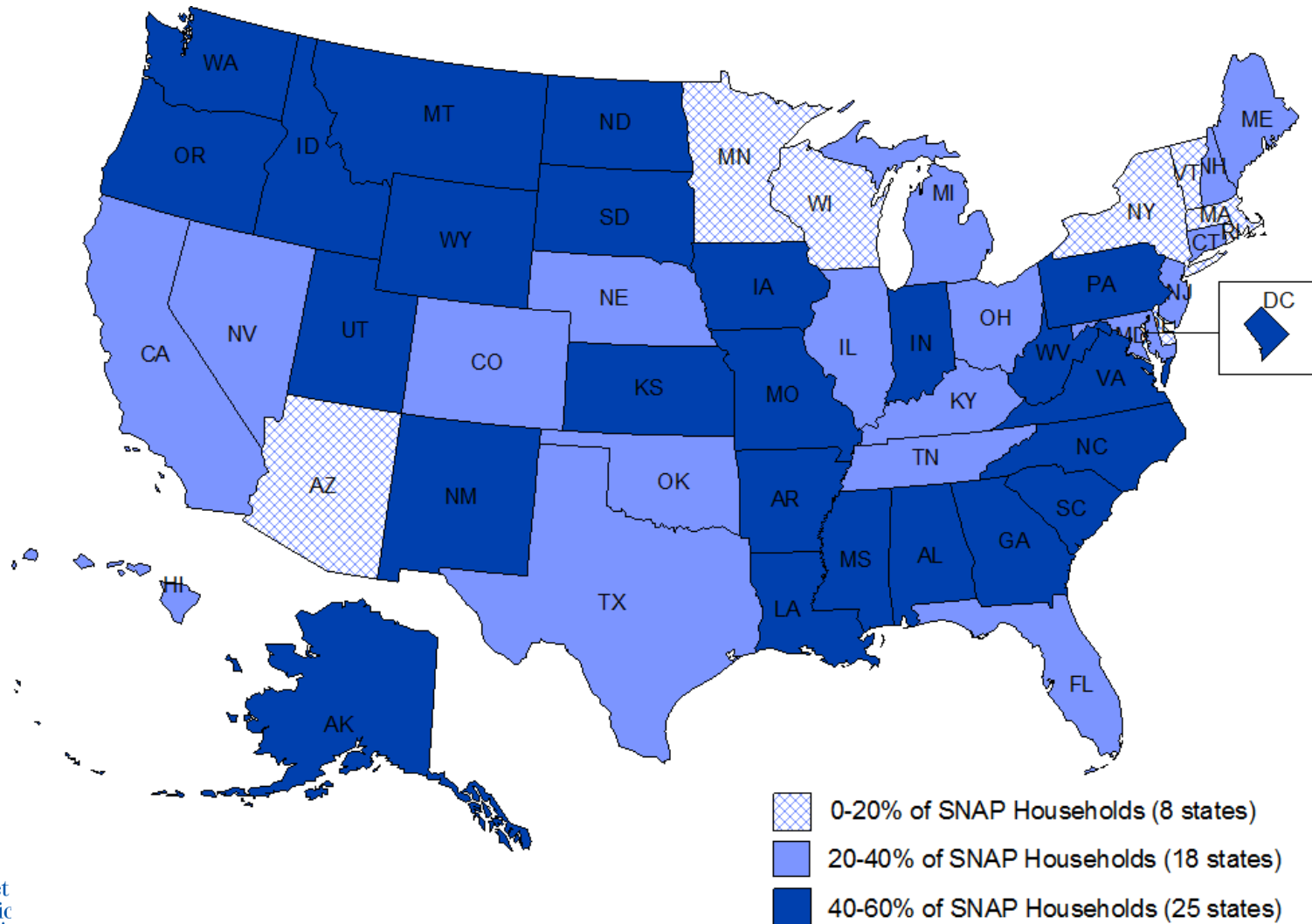
What Does this Mean for SNAP?



SNAP and Medicaid Will Have More in Common

- Medicaid will expand minimum coverage group:
 - 138% of FPL income eligibility floor for children, parents and childless non-elderly adults.
 - No asset tests.
 - States with higher eligibility must maintain it.
- CBO estimates that 16 million people will join Medicaid (many of whom will be SNAP eligible.)
- CBPP estimates that $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of these will be on SNAP.

In Half the States, 40-60% of SNAP Households Will Include Newly Medicaid Eligibles



What About the Other 10 Million?

- New Medicaid eligibles could also be SNAP eligible.
- Will your state's process (thru exchange, health or human services agencies) screen *and* enroll them for SNAP?
- It is critical that we assess how to make that effort successful *and* manageable.

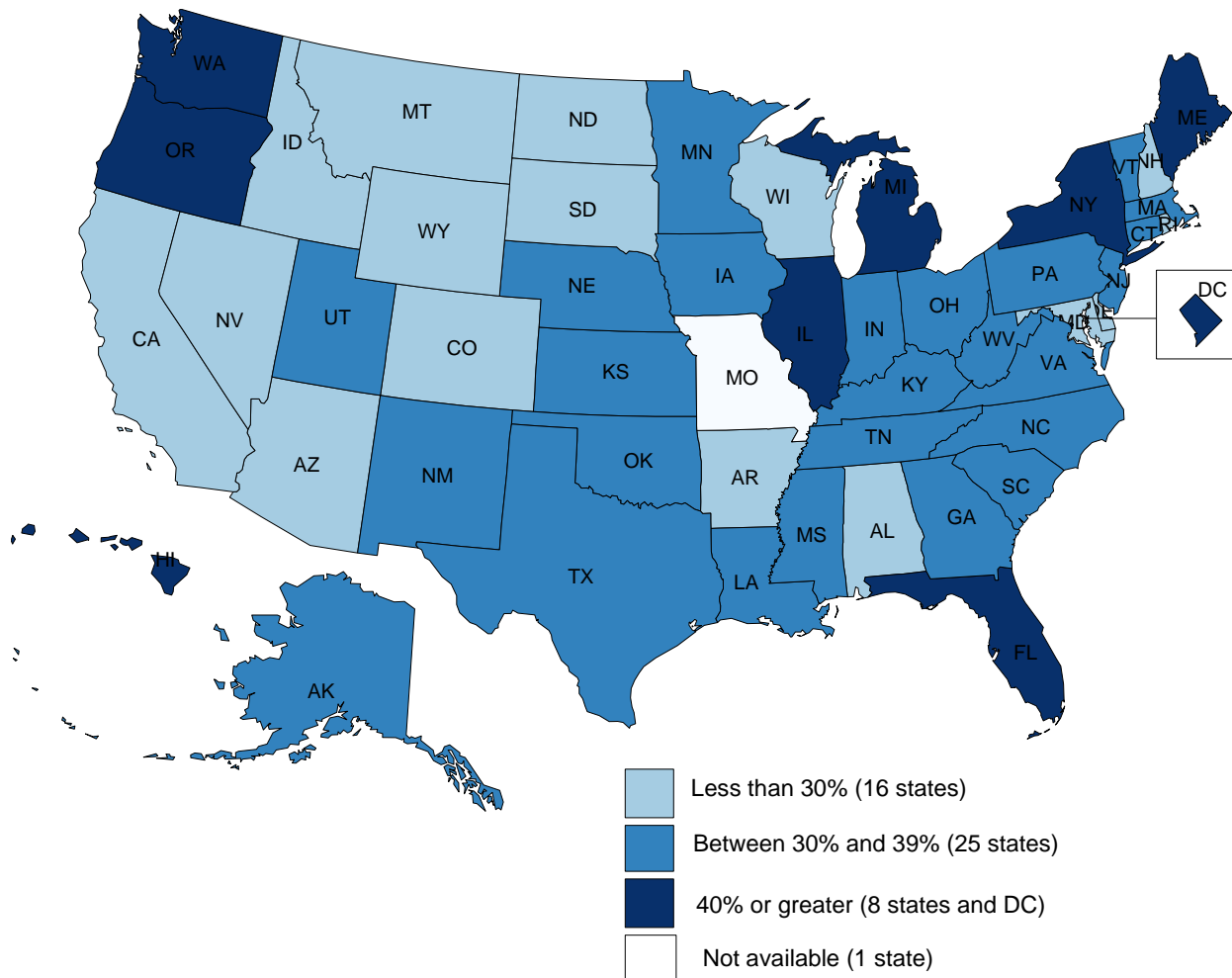
So, What Do We Do?

- Be a Joiner!
 - Single state portal workgroup
 - Systems redesign workgroup
 - Medicaid eligibility redesign workgroup
 - Exchange eligibility workgroup
 - Consumer Assistance Grants workgroup
- Be a voice for the poorest families' needs.

Envision a Different Way

- How will health coverage applicants get SNAP?
 - Lessons from WA
- Measure success as connecting eligibles to *both* SNAP and Medicaid.

Senior Participation Rates, 2006



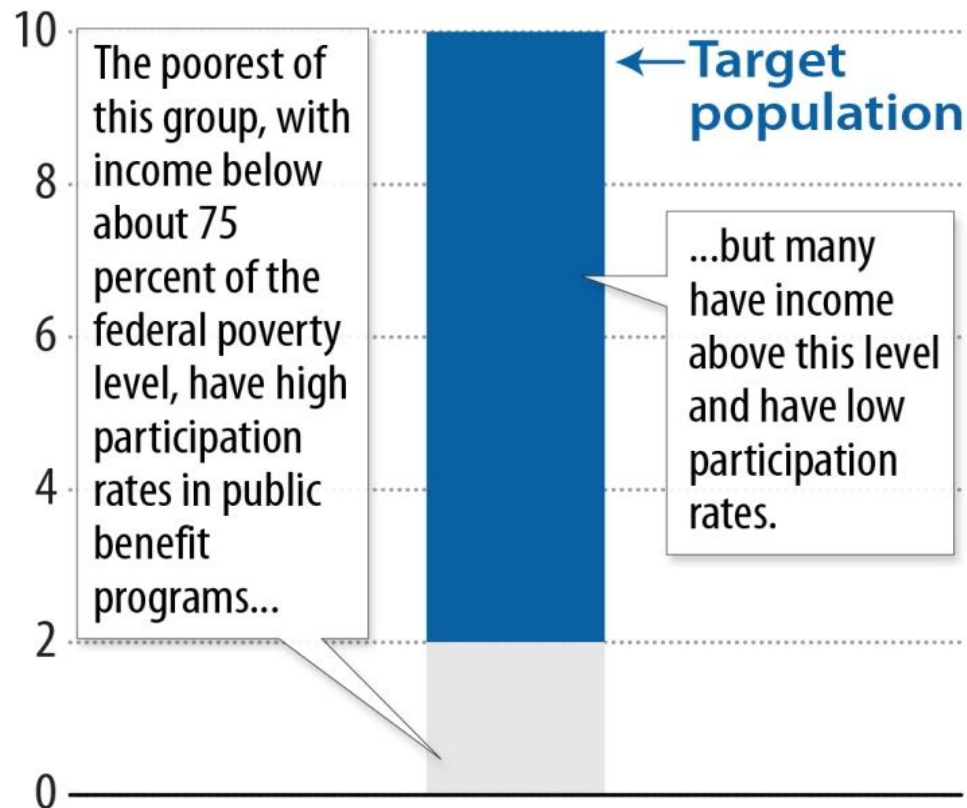
At Least 3 Different Groups of Seniors

- SSI recipients:
 - Income below 75% of poverty
 - Almost always qualify for and get Medicaid
- Over 65, no SSI:
 - Have Social Security and Medicare
- Age 60 to 64:
 - Often qualify for very little help other than SNAP

Low-income 65+

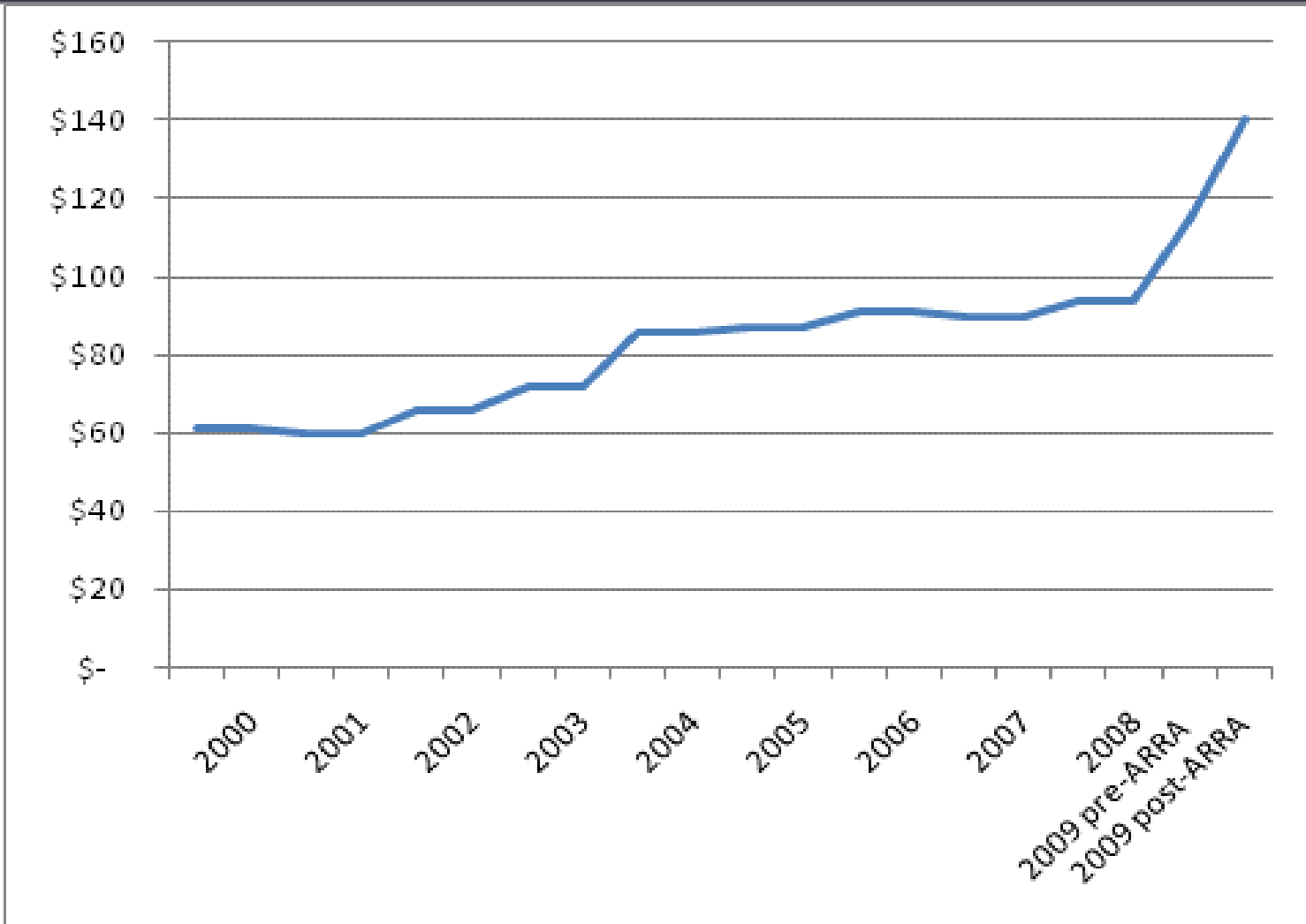
Medicare beneficiaries over age 65 with income below 150 percent of the federal poverty line

In millions

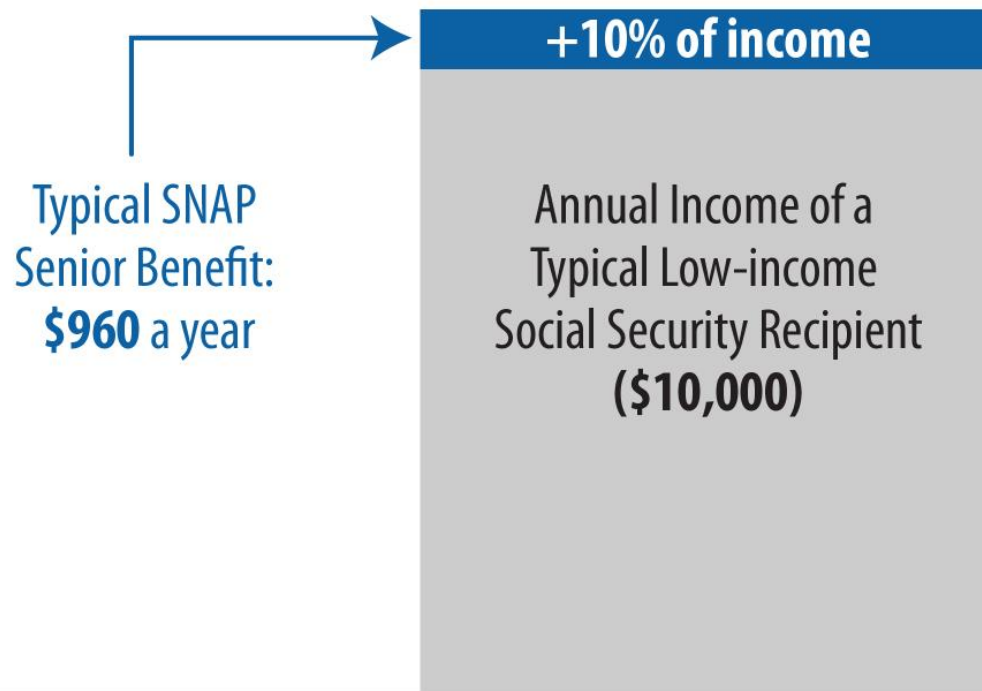


Bust the \$10 Myth:

Average Benefit for Households With Seniors is \$140



SNAP Alone Can Make a Difference



Special Senior Projects Can Boost Enrollment – AL and MA

- Simplified Applications
- Working with senior centers and aging groups
- Telephone interviews
- 2 Year renewals
- Reduced verifications
 - Shelter
 - Medical

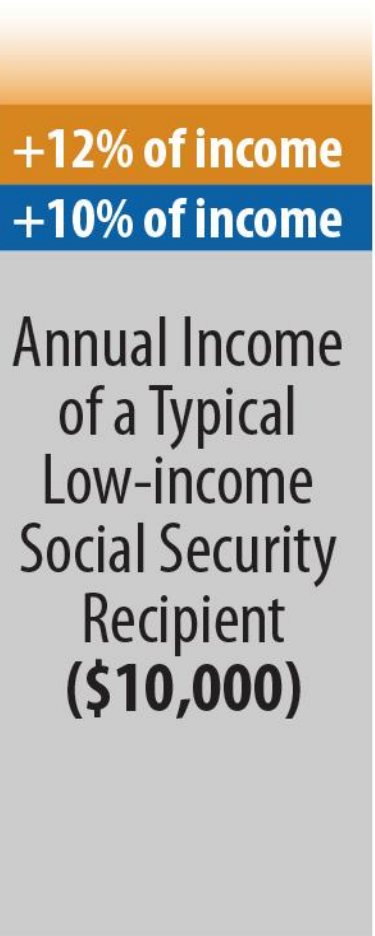
Significant Overlap in Eligibility in 3 Key Programs

- **MSP:** Up to 135% federal poverty line.
- **LIS:** Up to 150% federal poverty line.
- **SNAP:** No Gross Income Limit, net income under 100% federal poverty line.

The Package of Benefits is Dramatic!

MSP Part B premium:
\$1,157 a year

MSP also covers additional
Medicare cost sharing



Typical
Food Stamp
Benefit:
\$960 a year

LIS Average Value:
\$3,900 a year

+

+39% of income

Lots of Potential Partners

- States and Counties can work with:
 - AARP
 - National Council on Aging (Benefit Enrollment Centers)
 - Agencies on Aging, SHIPS
 - Anti-hunger and Medicare rights advocates
 - Legal services groups
 - Other community-based organizations
 - Social Security Administration

2011 – Final Predictions

- States and SNAP respond heroically to need
- Budget battles – serious risks for poor families
- Health care – get in the game or be horizontally disintegrated!
- New focus on and creativity in serving seniors

SNAP vs. Medicaid/CHIP Participation in CA

- **SNAP
Participation
Among Eligible
Individuals:
50%**

**second lowest in
the nation**



- **Medicaid/CHIP
Participation
Among Eligible
Children: 82%**

29th in the nation

Take Advantage of What's There



“When push comes to shove, you need to take advantage of what’s there to help you.”

Kobreina Carlson

A Closer Look: 3 Ways to Make the Most of SNAP

- Eligibility Options and Flexibility
- Assessing Net Income
- Reducing Barriers to Participation



Eligibility: Are You Helping Everyone You Can?

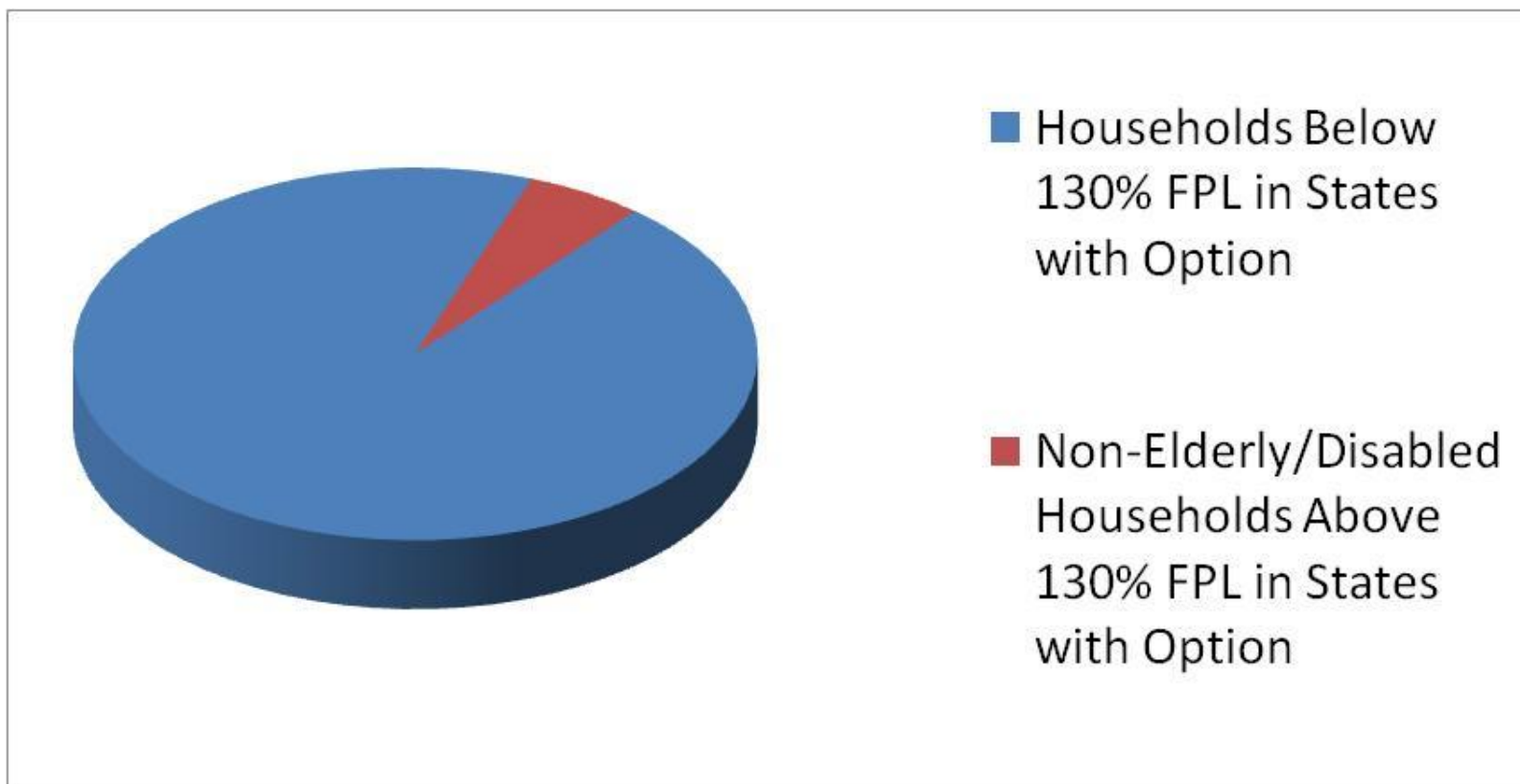
Are you taking full advantage of options and flexibilities to tweak eligibility?

- Options to extend coverage:
 - Asset Tests and Gross Income
- State rules don't need to be tighter than federal rules:
 - Students
 - ABAWDs

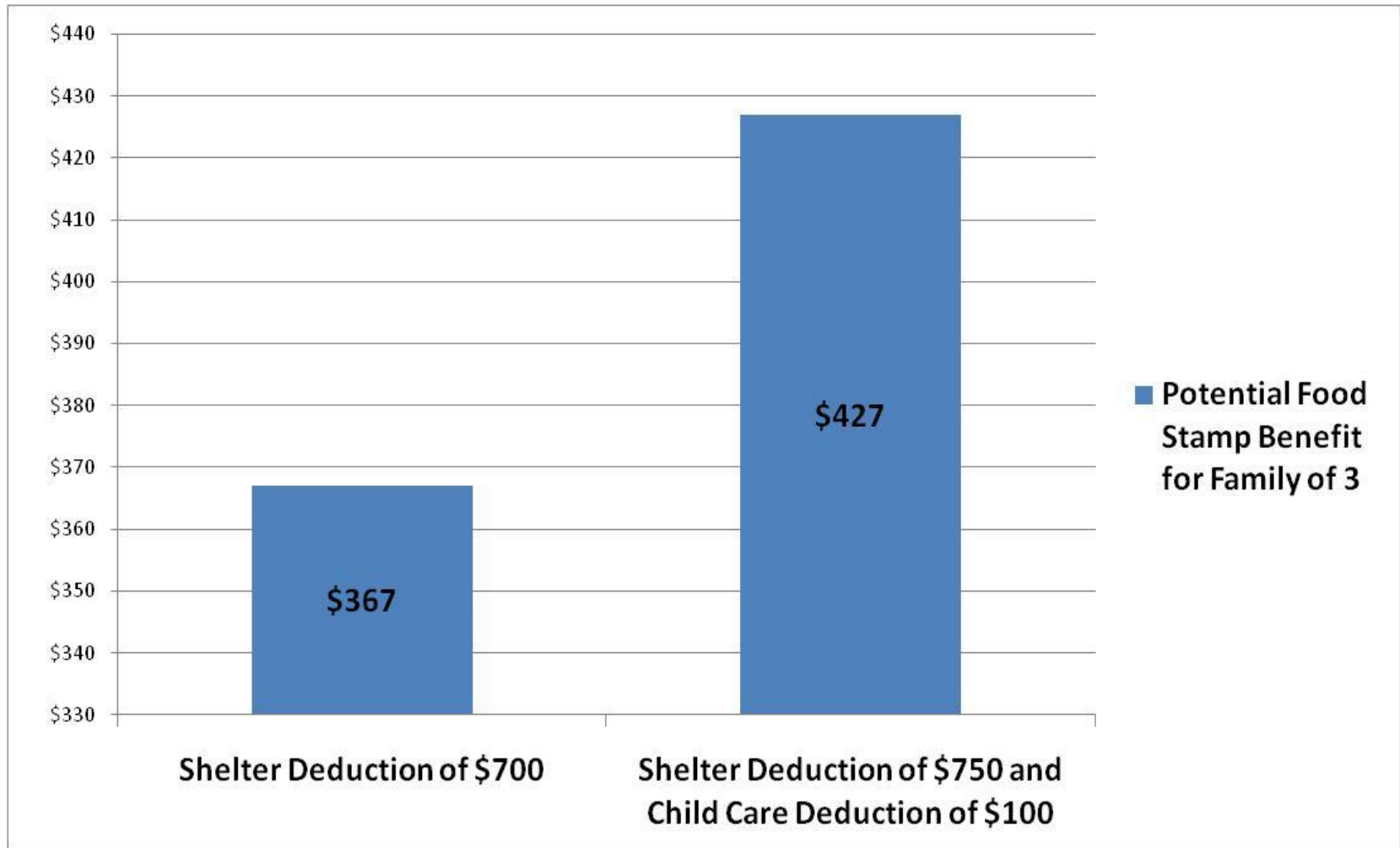


Raising the Gross Income Test Opens Up the Program To More Households

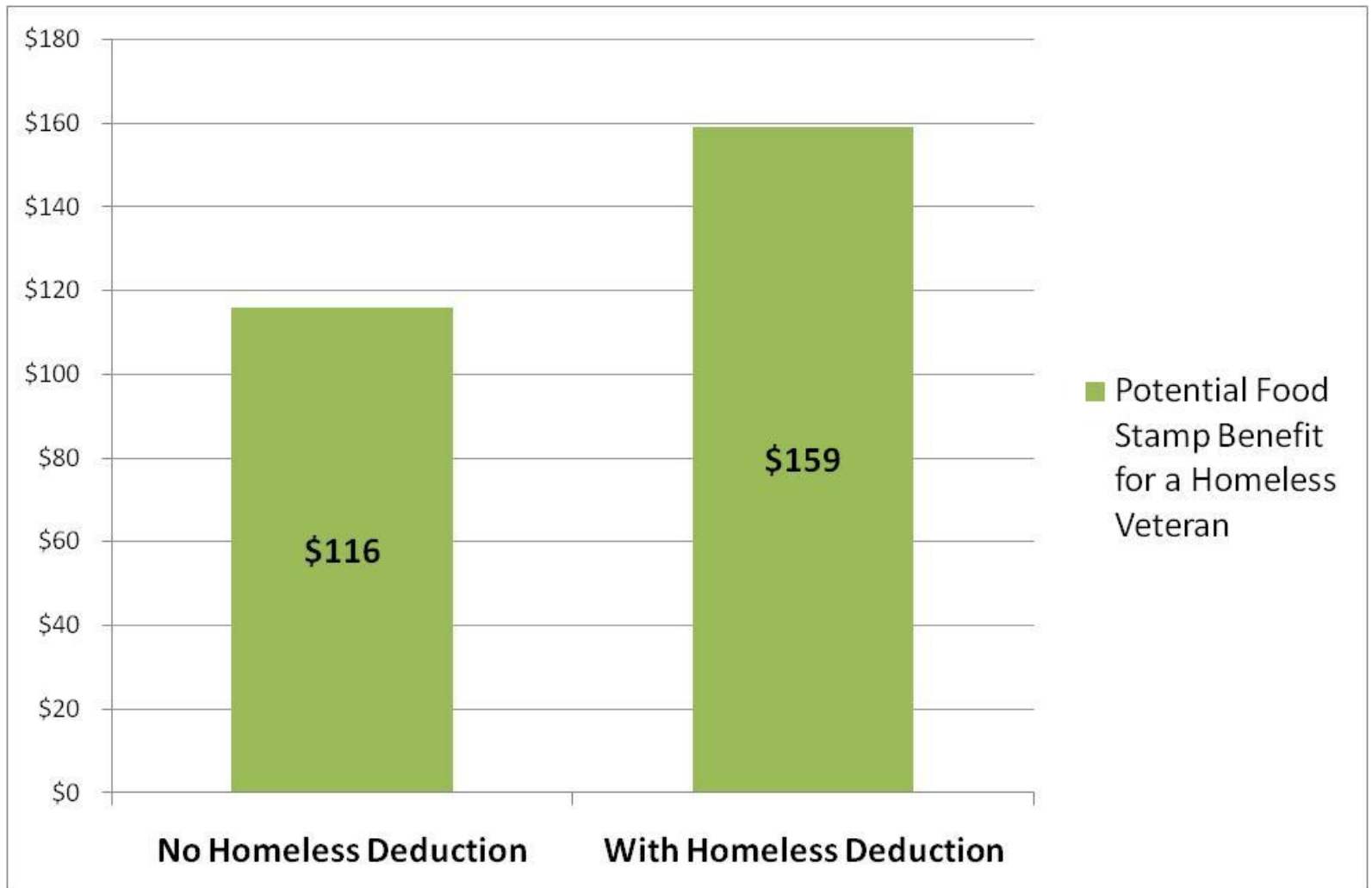
**In States that have Raised the Gross Income Limit, Non-Elderly,
Non-Disabled Households Grew An Average of 7%**



Calculating Net Income: Take Full Advantage of Deductions



Example: Homeless Shelter Deduction



Homeless Deduction

- State option (7 CFR 273.9(d)(6)(i))
- \$143 deduction for:
 - Households residing in a homeless facility (locker, laundry, phone expenses); or
 - Households temporarily (<90 days) residing in the home of another (contributions towards hh expenses)
- Verification of expenses not required

Homeless Deduction (cont'd)

- Cannot also claim shelter/SUA expenses
- If can verify $> \$143$ can receive actual expenses
- System programmed to calculate “the better deal”

Reducing Barriers



- Offering more service options
- Reducing paperwork requirements — less verification
- Fewer office visits
- Proactively offering deductions

It's Not Always Easy

- Computer reprogramming
- Staff training
- Policy concerns
- Public and media scrutiny
- Possible caseload expansion

But,the pay off is more benefits to struggling households and local economies.

Policy and Procedure Can Be Simpler

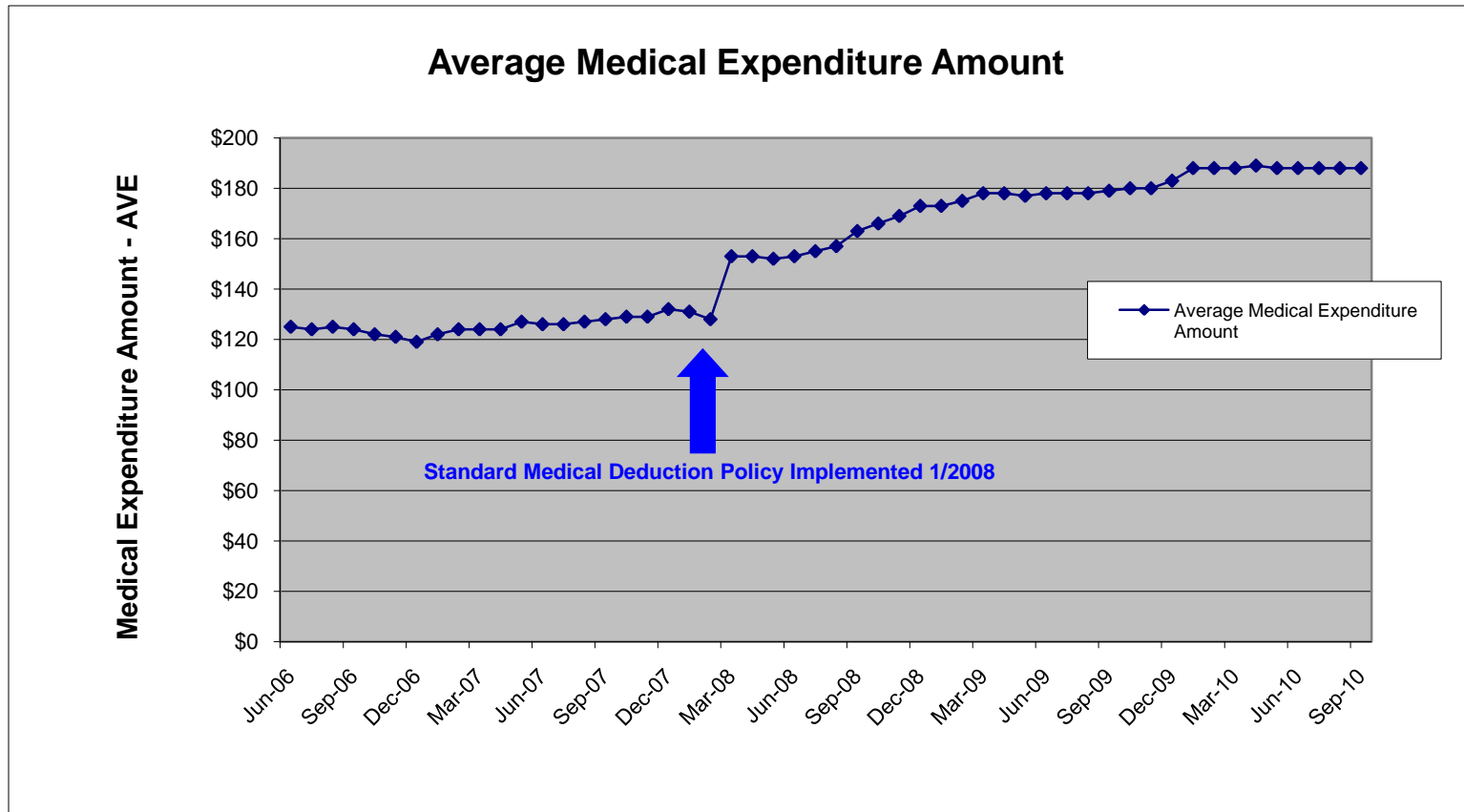
- Simpler means, where possible:
 - coordinated rules
 - fewer transactions
 - more efficient for clients and caseworkers
 - action today saves work tomorrow
- Simpler \neq Miracle.

Reducing Paperwork

- **Assessing Verification** – does the state really need it? (and do they need to keep asking for it)
 - States are accepting client statements and/or using standards for deductions
 - SSA data match for cit doc
 - CIS matches for immigration status

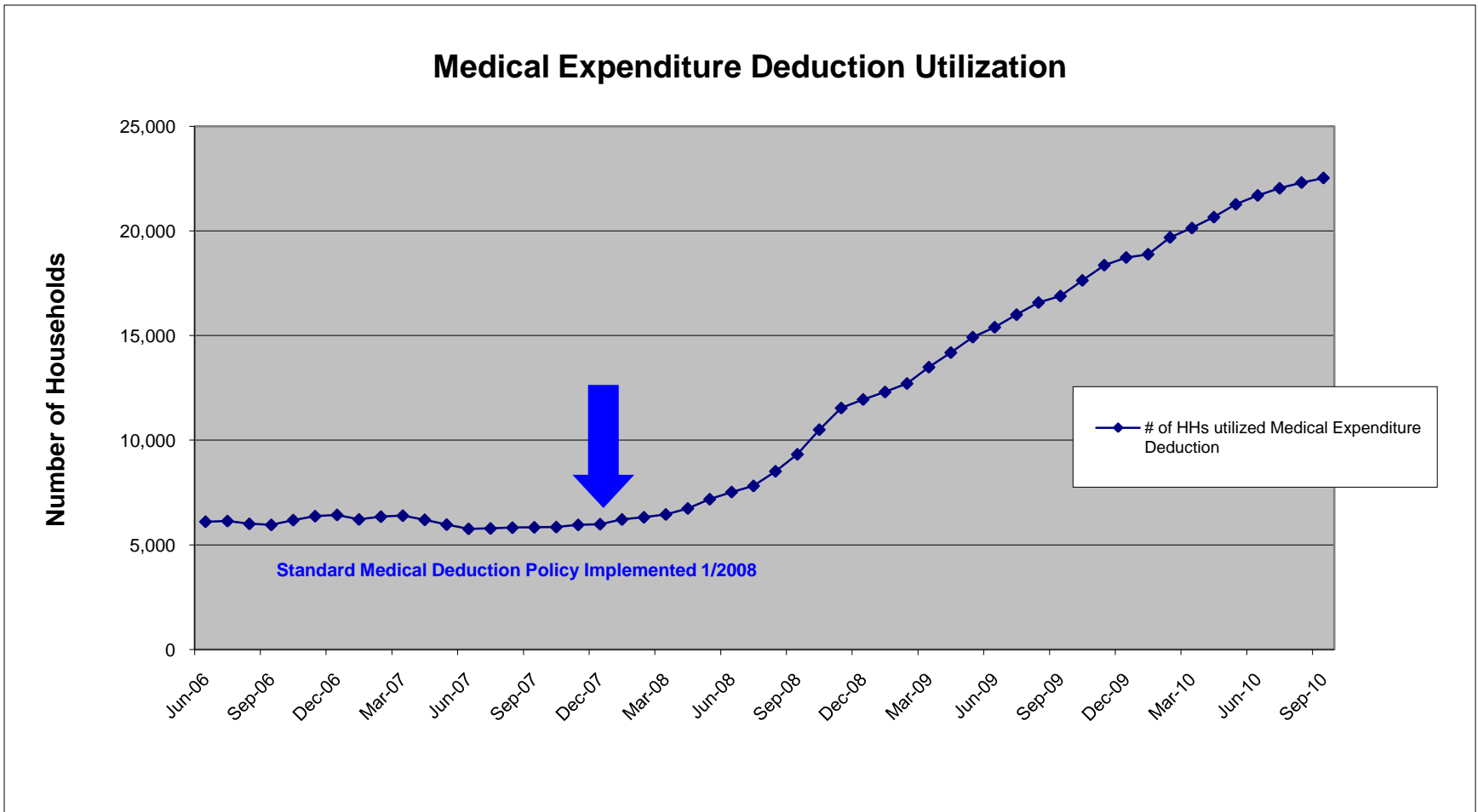
Assess whether your workers follow the rules.

Medical Expense Amount



Average expense amount June 2006 = \$125 September 2010 = \$188

Medical Expense Deduction Utilization



Medical Expense Deduction Utilization

Between January 2008 and July 2010, while the SNAP caseload has increased by 63 percent, the number of SNAP households utilizing the Medical Expense Deduction has increased by over 254 percent.

	January 2008	July 2010	% Increase
# HH Utilizing MD	6,212	22,035	254.72%
# HH on SNAP	258,234	421,620	63.27%
% of Utilization	2.4	5.2	116.67%