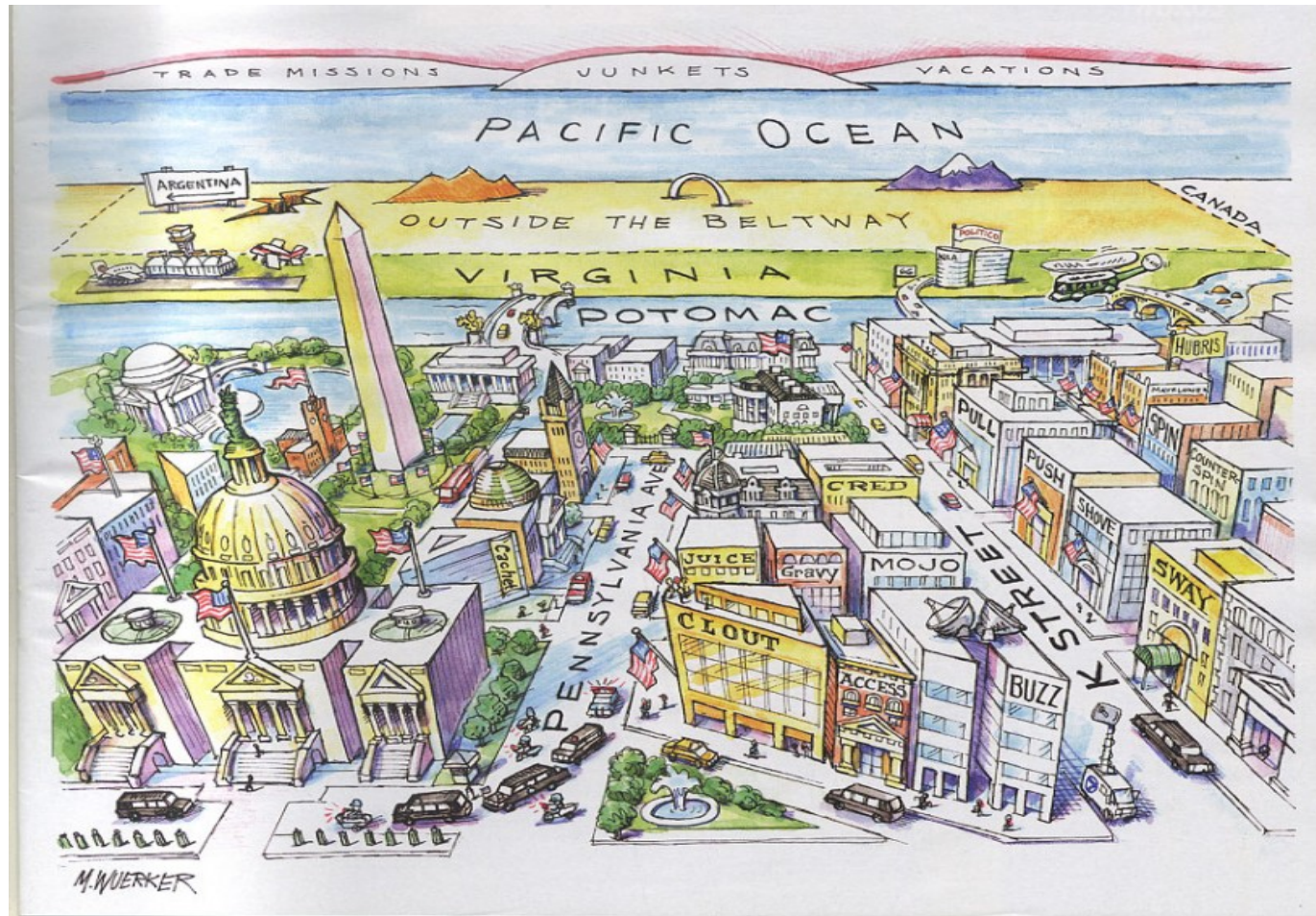


# State of SNAP: A National Perspective

**Dottie Rosenbaum**

Senior Fellow

Center on Budget & Policy Priorities



# The State of SNAP:

## A View From DC

**Dottie Rosenbaum**

March 6, 2019

# Perspective

## Threats on the Horizon Last Two Years



# What to Expect when You Are Expecting Bad News

## Possible Policies

Block Grant with Deep Cuts

Increased “Work Requirements”

Eligibility or Benefit Cuts

Harmful Waivers of Federal Law

Stigma Proposals

## Possible Process

Congressional Budget

President Trump Budget

Farm Bill

Welfare “Reform” 2.0



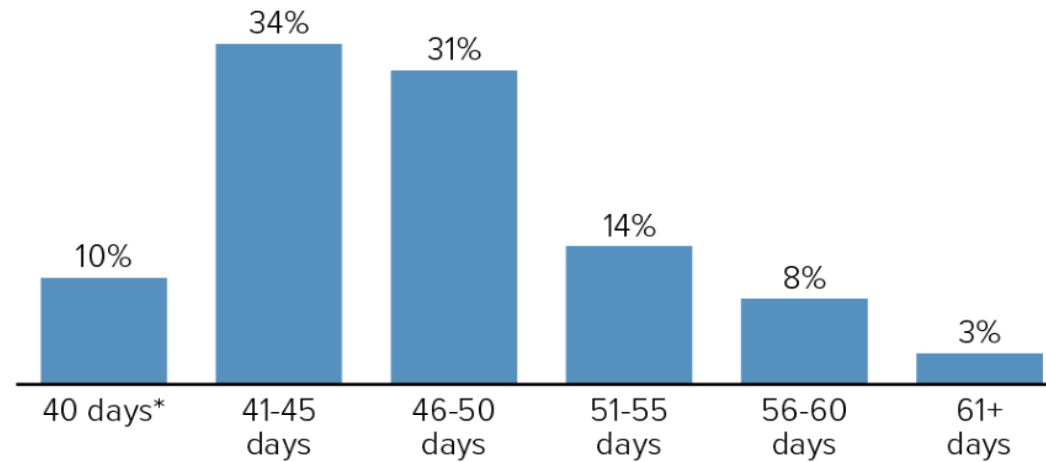
# The Worst of the Storm Has Passed



# Shutdown

## Due to Shutdown, Most SNAP Households Face Lengthy Gap Between Benefits

Share of ongoing SNAP households, by number of days between February and March issuances



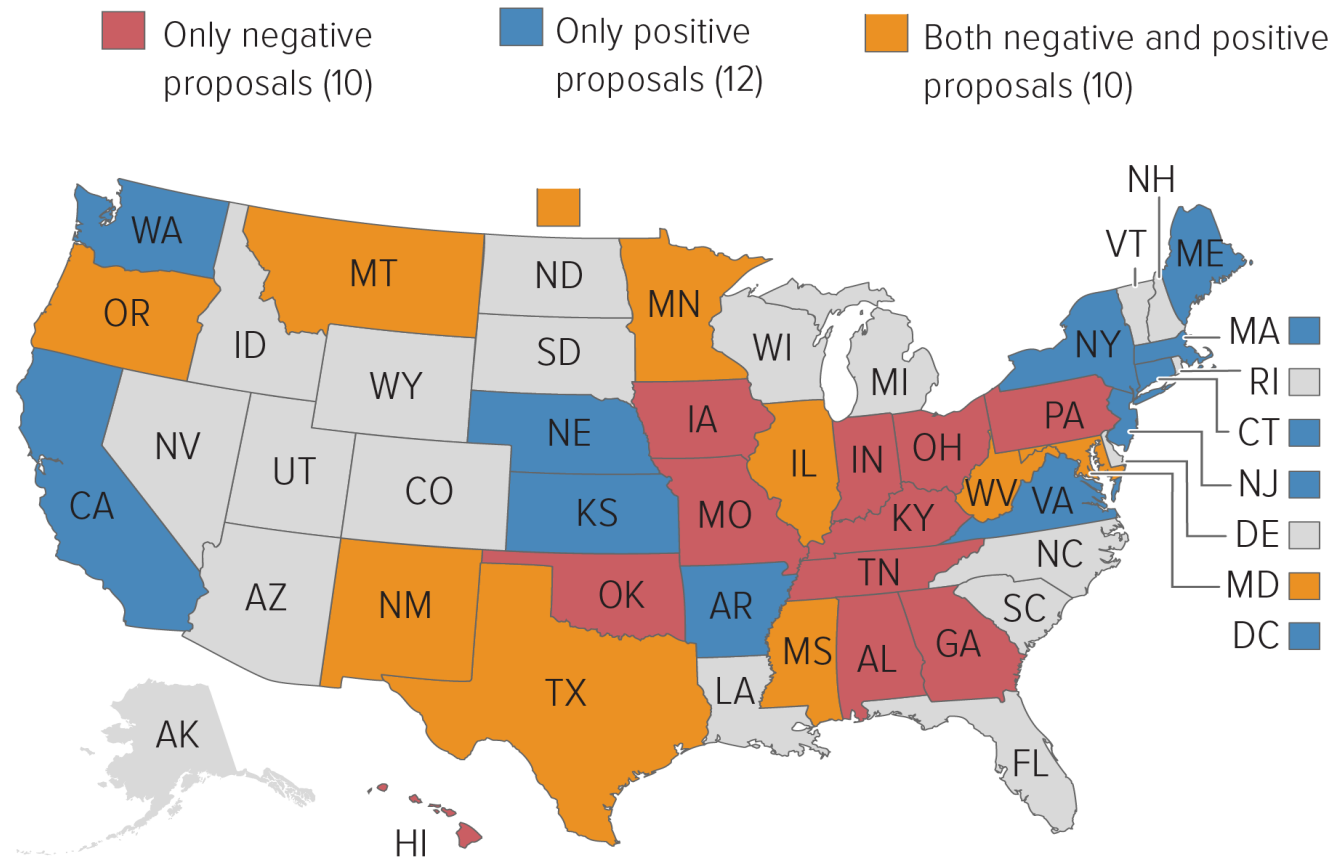
\*This gap will occur in the seven states that issue all SNAP on the first day of the month and in other states that issue a portion on the first.

Notes: States issued February SNAP benefits in January to avoid benefit cuts that would have resulted from the partial government shutdown. The figures assume that states issued February SNAP benefits on January 20 and states do not change their March issuance schedules. The gaps between receiving benefits may be longer because many states issued their February SNAP benefits a few days before January 20. Gaps could be somewhat shorter if states make changes to their March issuance schedules. These figures do not include households whose eligibility had not been determined before January 20 and those that were due to be reassessed in January but the reassessment was not completed in time.

Source: CBPP analysis of state SNAP participation and issuance schedules from the Department of Agriculture

# State Legislation A Threat in Many States

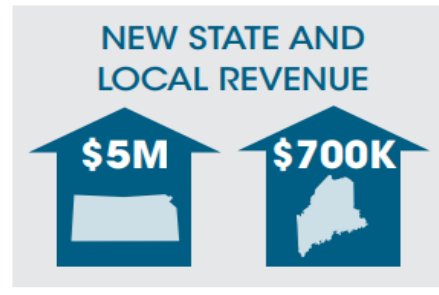
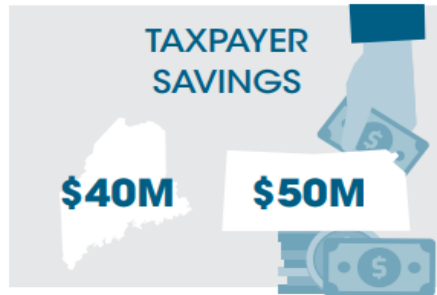
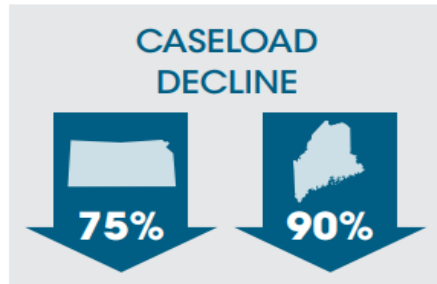
## 2019 SNAP State Legislation (as of 3/4/19)



Source: CBPP compilation of SNAP-related state legislative proposals in 2019

# FGA Work Changes Lives

What happens when you move people from welfare to work?



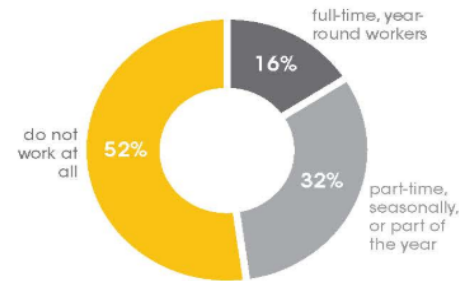


# Many States Also Face Medicaid Threats



## Expand Work Requirements to Medicaid

### ENROLLEES AREN'T WORKING



Work is the best way to increase incomes and reduce dependency. However, according to the Census Bureau, just 16 percent of able-bodied adults on Medicaid are full-time, year-round workers, compared to 52 percent who do not work at all.

### COSTS ARE UNSUSTAINABLE

The number of able-bodied adults on Medicaid has **quadrupled since 2000**.



In 2000, Medicaid consumed 19.5% of state budgets. Today, Medicaid consumes nearly 30% – or **nearly 1 out of every 3 dollars**.

Medicaid spending has more than **tripled since 2000**, with Medicaid spending on able-bodied adults increasing by more than 700 percent.

# Status of Proposals

## To Take Medicaid Away From People Who Don't Meet Work Requirements

---

Approved: AR, AZ, IN, KY\*, MI, NH, WI

---

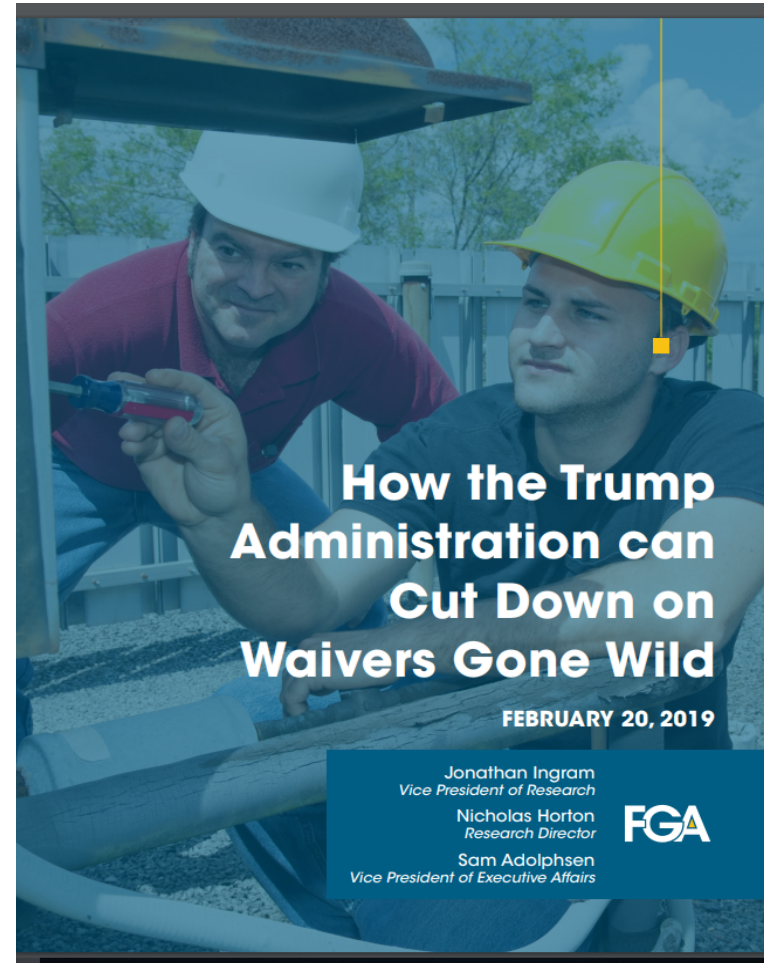
Pending at CMS: AL, KS, MS, OH, OK, SD, TN, UT, VA

---

Defeated in 2018: AK, CO, LA, MN, NC, PA, WY

# Regulatory Threats

- Major Roll-back of Waivers from Three Month Time Limit.
  - **Comment period ends April 2.**




# More Regulatory Threats

- Expect “soon” a proposal to Limit Broad-based Categorical Eligibility.
  - State flexibility on asset and income tests that almost every state has taken
- Public Charge final rule.
- Additional?







**Early access to SNAP can improve long-term health and economic outcomes.**

Adults who had access to SNAP as young children were **healthier and had better economic outcomes.**

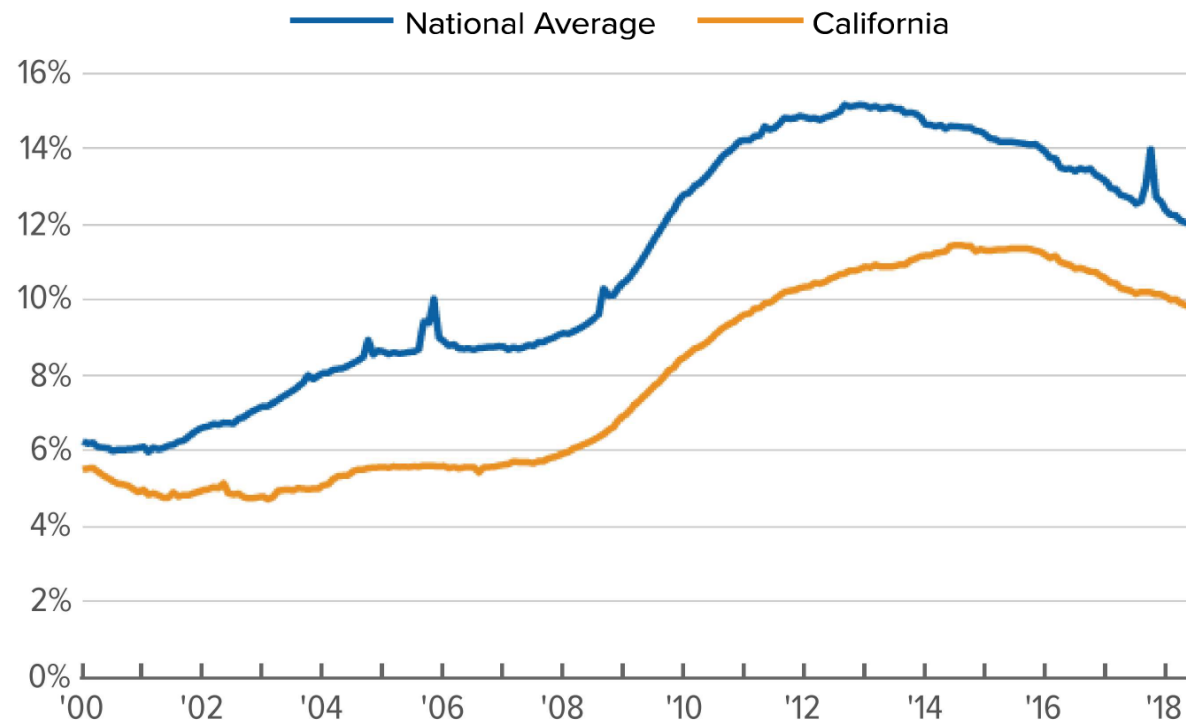
CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | [CBPP.ORG](http://CBPP.ORG)

**#SNAPWorks**

# How Well Is SNAP Reaching People?

## Number of SNAP Participants as a Share of the Population

2000 — 2018

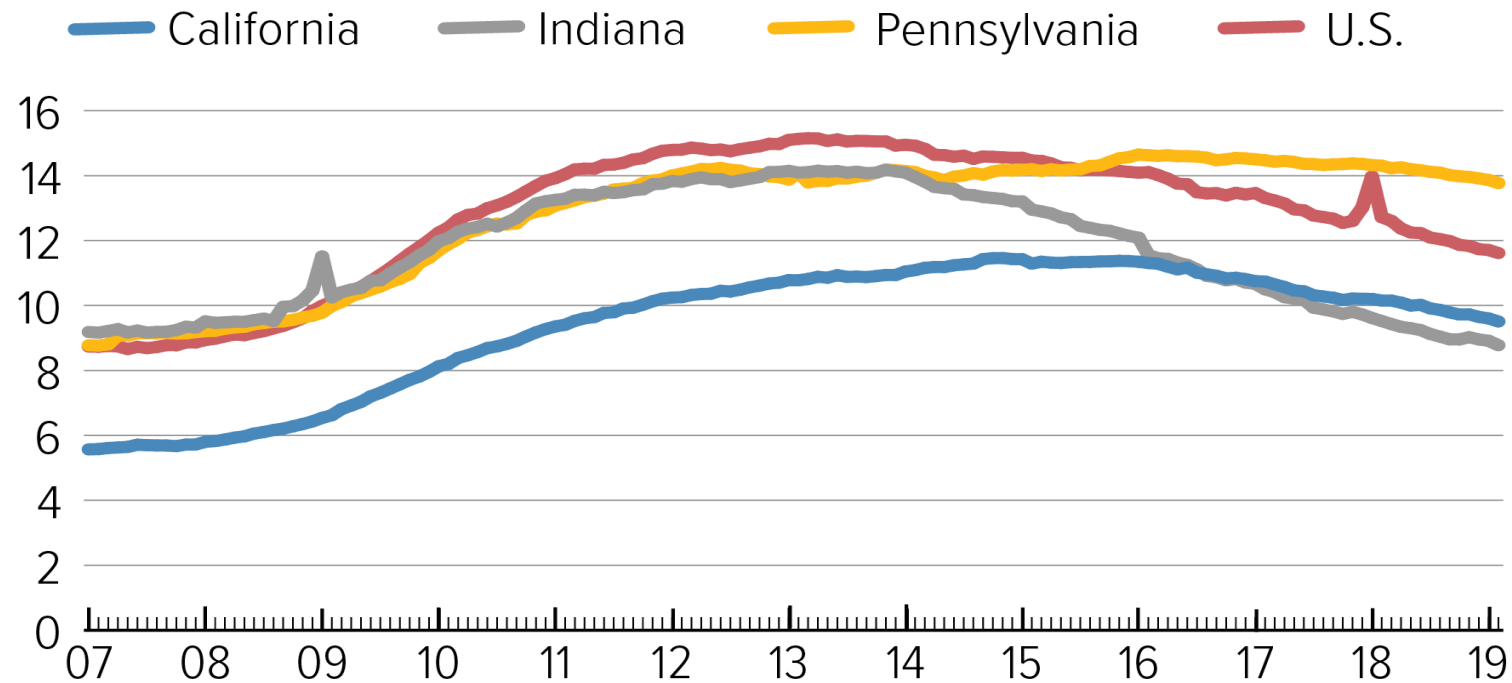


Source: CBPP calculations from USDA program data and Census Bureau population estimates.

# Some Other States

## Diverging SNAP Caseload

Number of SNAP participants as a share of the population, October 2016 - November 2018

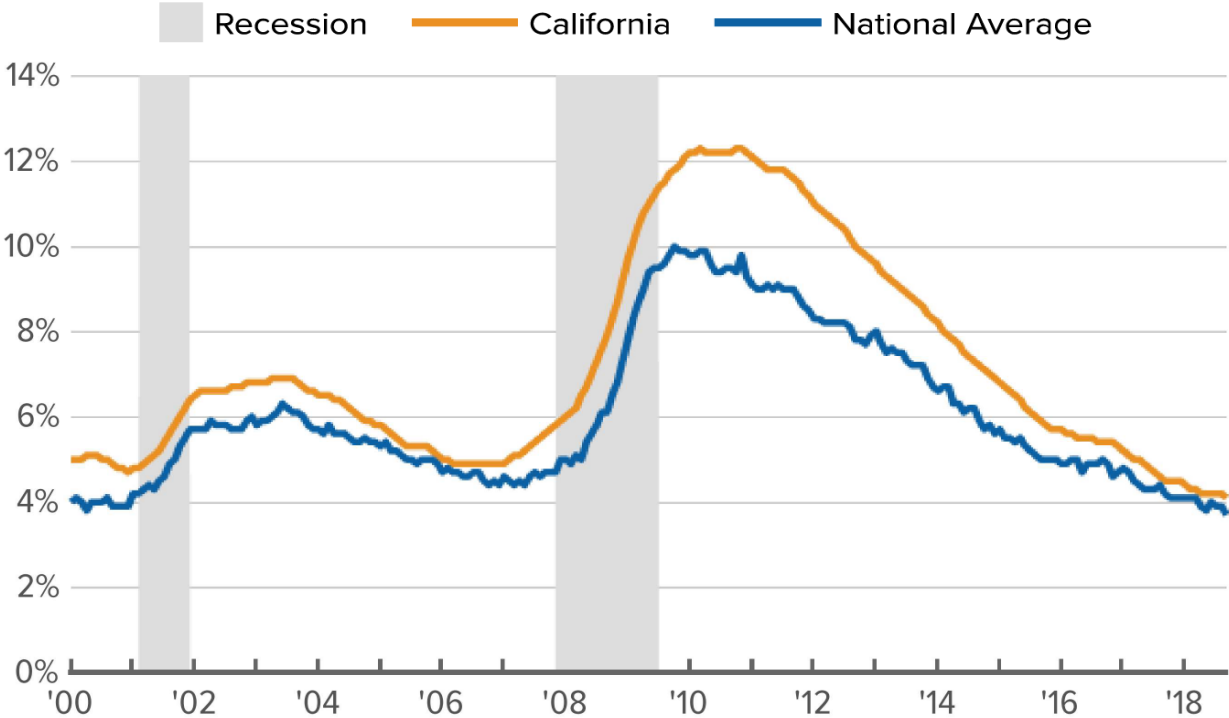


Source: CBPP calculations from USDA program data and Census Bureau population estimates

# Unemployment is Low

## Monthly Unemployment Rates

2000-2018

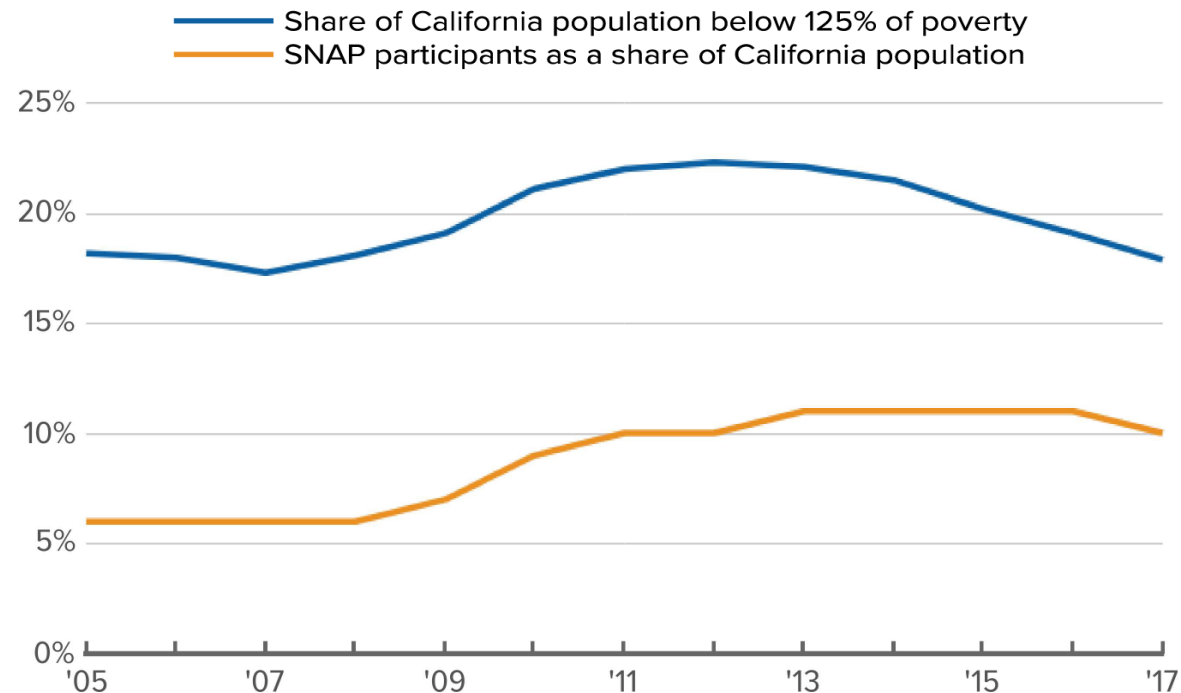


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



# California Low-Income Population Falling, SNAP Flatter

**How the Number of SNAP Participants as a Share of the Population Tracks the Share of People in Households with Income Below 125% of Poverty**

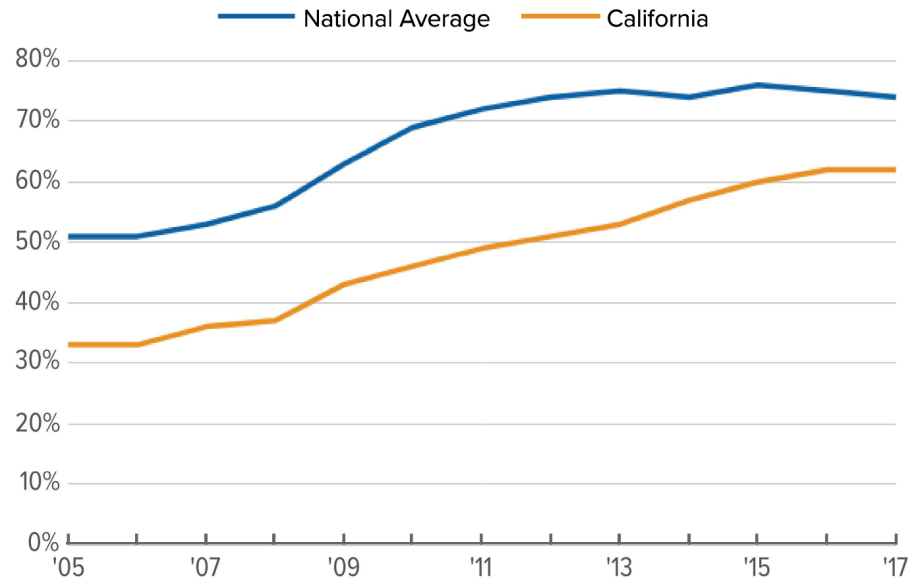


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2005-2017 American Community Survey and CBPP calculations from USDA program data and Census Bureau population estimates.

# California Program Access Index Nearly Doubled

## SNAP Program Access Index

2005 – 2017



Note: The Program Access Index is the ratio of SNAP participants over the calendar year to the total number of people with income below 125 percent of the poverty line. The PAI is used for assessing SNAP performance bonuses. The 2017 rate is a CBPP estimate and may not match FNS's estimates, especially for states with large participation in the Food Donation Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), with D-SNAP in 2017, or for California because of SSI cash-out.  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/calculating-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap-program-access-index-step-step-guide>

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service and CBPP estimate for 2017.

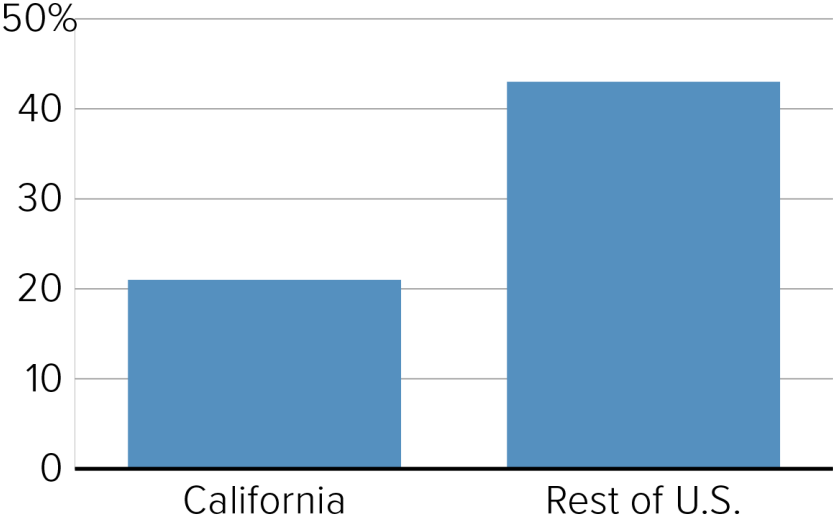
## But California Still Below Many States

	2007	2015	2017
California – Overall Rate	51%	70%	
California – Working Poor	34%	57%	
California – PAI	35.5%	60.2%	62.3%
Georgia – Overall Rate	64%	86%	
Georgia – Working Poor	58%	74%	
Georgia – PAI	54.7%	81.0%	78.8%
Nevada – Overall Rate	61%	81%	
Nevada – Working Poor	49%	77%	
Nevada – PAI	35.4%	76.6%	85.1%

# California Has Lower Than Average Participation Among Seniors

## Rough SNAP Participation Rate for "Elderly" Individuals

SNAP recipients age 60+ as a share of the number of individuals 60+ with income at or under 150 percent FPL, 2017



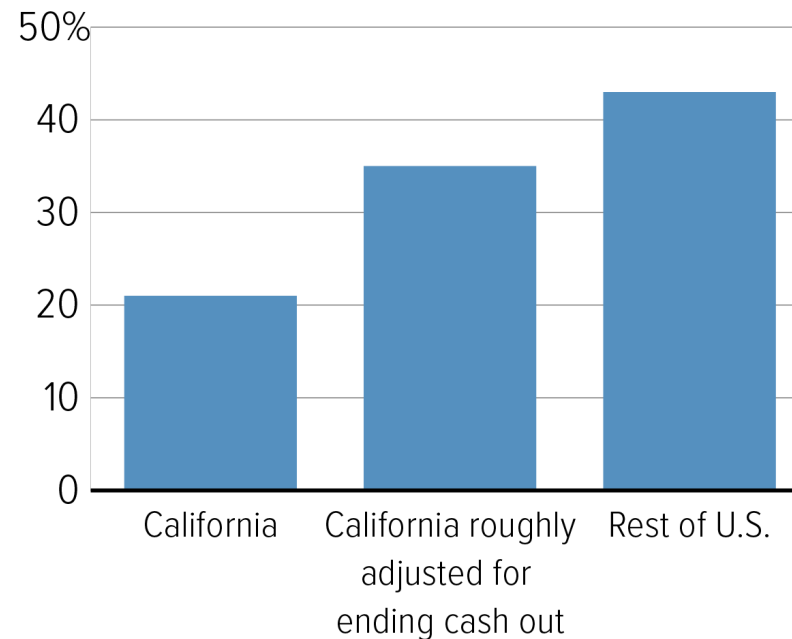
Source: Source: CBPP analysis of FY 2017 USDA SNAP Household Characteristics data and 2017 American Community Survey



# Some is Because of SSI “Cash-out”

## Rough SNAP Participation Rate for “Elderly” Individuals

SNAP recipients age 60+ as a share of the number of individuals 60+ with income at or under 150 percent FPL, 2017

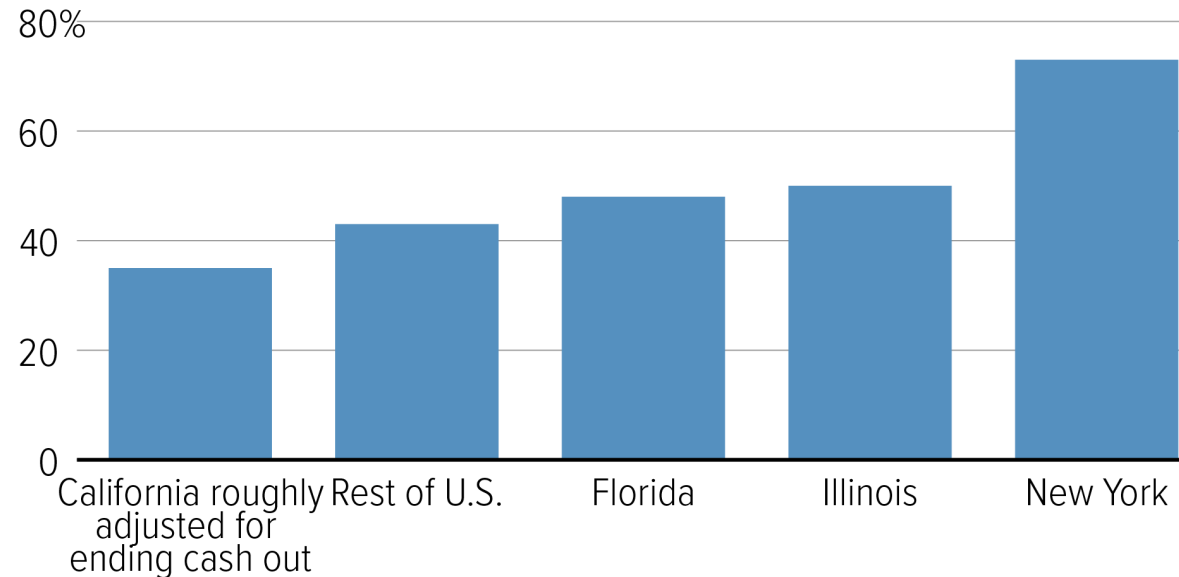


Source: Source: CBPP analysis of FY 2017 USDA SNAP Household Characteristics data and 2017 American Community Survey

# But Still Lots of Room For Improvement in Coming Years!

## Rough SNAP Participation Rate for "Elderly" Individuals

SNAP recipients age 60+ as a share of the number of individuals 60+ with income at or under 150 percent FPL, 2017



Source: Source: Source: CBPP analysis of FY 2017 USDA SNAP Household Characteristics data and 2017 American Community Survey

# To Understand and Improve We Need to Dig

## State/County Data

Combined with:

- Policy
- Process
- Customer and Staff Experience and Input
- Innovate and Test
- CA can lead the way on assessing “chill” of anti-immigrant climate



**Dottie Rosenbaum**

**Rosenbaum@cbpp.org**

**www.cbpp.org**

**202.408.1080**

