

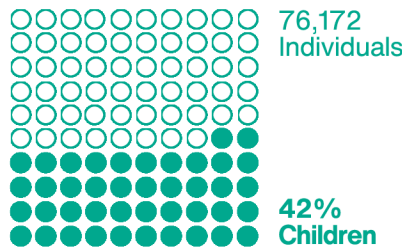
The Economic Impact of SNAP Cuts in Kent County

Access to food is fundamental to family stability, student success, and long-term economic mobility. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) supports entire systems of health, education, and workforce development. Cuts to SNAP ripple outward, weakening education systems by limiting students' ability to focus and learn, and straining the workforce system, as food-insecure adults face additional barriers to maintaining stable employment. Local economic systems are also disrupted, with grocery stores and small businesses experiencing reduced customer spending. Nonprofit and emergency food systems, already stretched thin, find themselves absorbing additional demand, diverting resources from essential services.

KConnect's vision is a future where every child and family has the opportunity and support to thrive, no matter their starting point. Food insecurity stands as one of the most persistent systemic barriers to that vision, blocking pathways to health, learning, and economic mobility. This fact sheet highlights the broad economic implications of SNAP cuts in Kent County, underscoring why food security is essential in building a thriving, equitable regional economy.

Data from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services shows that in FY2025, an average of **76,172** individuals in Kent County received SNAP benefits. Out of that total number, nearly **32,000** were children.

Food Assistance Program (FAP): Trend Information, Fiscal Years 2023, 2024, and 2025.



\$178/month

In FY2024, the average SNAP household in Michigan received **\$337.60** in SNAP benefits per month, which is about **\$178** per person per month or **\$5.84** per person per day.

Food Assistance Program (FAP): Trend Information, Fiscal Years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

\$1.00 → \$1.80

Each SNAP dollar generates up to a **\$1.80** economic impact, with a significant portion spent in local economies.

MDHHS Press Release, October 23, 2025.

The projected overall economic impact per month amounts to nearly **\$25M** in lost economic activity for Kent County.

KConnect Analysis, October 27, 2025.

Understanding Overall Economic Impact

When economists talk about the overall economic impact of something like SNAP, they are referring to more than the initial dollars spent.

Direct Impact: Families lose spending power for food and essentials, leading to lower grocery sales.

Indirect Impact: Fewer sales mean that distributors, farmers, and manufacturers face reduced demand.

Induced Impact: Workers in retail, transportation, and food production may see reduced hours and fewer job opportunities. With less income, they cut back on their own spending in the local economy, further reducing economic activity.