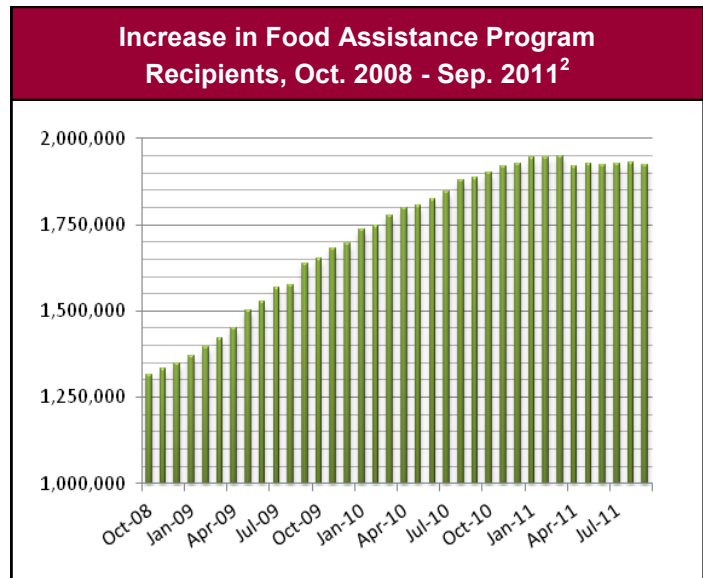




Michigan's Food Assistance Program

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The Michigan Food Assistance Program provides benefits to low-income families to increase their access to food. Funded through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Michigan food assistance caseloads have experienced a 50 percent increase over the last few years. About 1.9 million Michiganders received FAP monthly during Fiscal Year 2011.¹

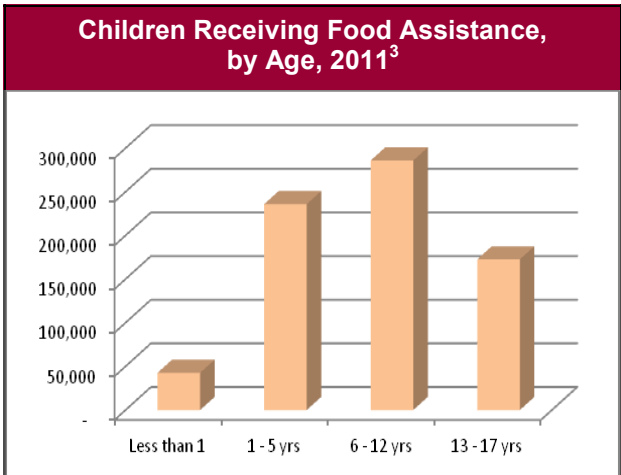


Did You Know?

- Food assistance recipients generally have to be working or participating in employment or training activities to receive assistance.
- Almost 80% of food assistance dollars are redeemed within two weeks and 97% within a month.
- Food assistance helps the economy grow. For every \$1 spent in food assistance, \$1.79 is generated in economic growth.
- Food assistance generates spending in the retail, agricultural and food production industries in Michigan.

There were over 800,000 children receiving food assistance in Michigan in September 2011. The average age of a child on food assistance is 8.4 years old.

Food Assistance Program Monthly Income Eligibility and Benefits			
Household Size	Net Income Limit (100% Poverty Level)	Maximum Monthly Benefit	Average Monthly Benefit
1	\$903	\$200	\$135
2	\$1,215	\$367	\$270
3	\$1,526	\$526	\$405
4	\$1,838	\$668	\$540
5	\$2,150	\$793	\$675
6	\$2,461	\$952	\$810



¹ Trend Report of Key Program Statistics, State of Michigan, Department of Human Services, September 2011.

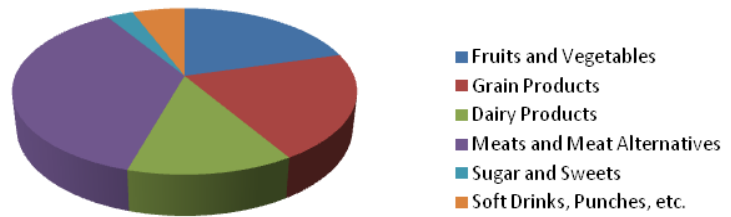
² Note that chart does not start at zero.

³ Green Book Report of Key Program Statistics. State of Michigan, Department of Human Services, September 2011. Calculations by Michigan League for Human Services.

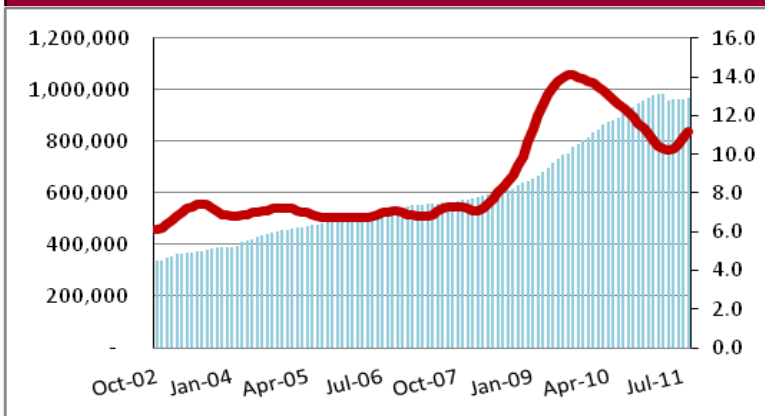
What can be purchased with food assistance benefits?

Food assistance benefits can only be used to purchase non-prepared foods but not hot foods that are ready to eat or lunch counter items or foods to be eaten in the store. They cannot be used to purchase non-food items such as soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, tobacco, pet food or alcoholic beverages.⁴

What Do People Buy with Food Assistance Benefits?⁵



Michigan Food Assistance Cases and Unemployment Rate, 2002-2011⁷



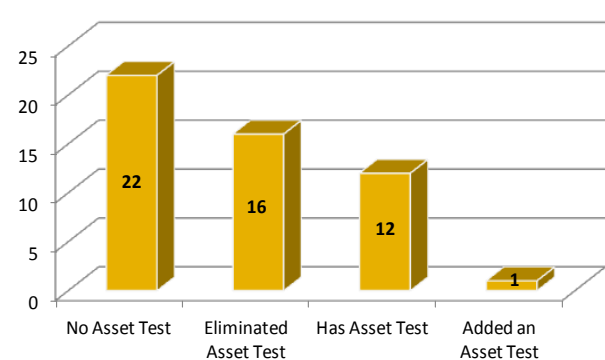
Food Assistance and Unemployment

Food assistance is the only universal safety net. The program is specifically designed to respond to economic downturns and ensure that people continue to have access to food during these times. Food assistance caseload increases track increases in a state's unemployment rate.⁶

Asset Tests

The Department of Human Services implemented an asset test for food assistance effective Oct. 1, 2011. This puts Michigan in a minority of states. The trend nationally is to eliminate asset tests to help families get back on their feet during the recession.⁸ Since 2008, 16 states have removed their asset test for food assistance, bringing the number of states that means-test their food assistance program to 13. In fact, 38 states have eliminated their food assistance asset limits since 1996 and Michigan is the ONLY state that has reinstated an asset test.⁹ Many of those affected by the asset test are the newly unemployed.

Vehicle Exemption Policies, State Comparisons



⁴ *Food Assistance Benefits in Michigan*, State of Michigan, Department of Human Services. DHS Pub-16 (Rev. 7-10).

⁵ *Review of Strategies to Bolster SNAP's Role in Improving Nutrition as well as Food Security*. Food Research and Action Network. June 2011.

⁶ Zedlewski, Sheila. *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Counters High Unemployment*. Unemployment and Recovery Project, The Urban Institute. Fact Sheet 1, July 2011.

⁷ *Trend Report of Key Program Statistics*, State of Michigan, Department of Human Services, September 2011; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Calculations by Michigan League for Human Services.

⁸ *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program State Options Report, 9th Ed.*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, November 2010.

⁹ *Expanding Access to SNAP/Food Stamps*, Food Research and Action Center, June 15, 2010.