



## WHO WE ARE

- SNAP Stretch is a program of the WV Food & Farm Coalition (WVFFC).
- WVFFC's mission is to work to build the local food and agriculture system in West Virginia in a way that provides viable incomes for farmers and local foods businesses and ensures all residents have access to locally produced food.
- The vision of WVFFC is that West Virginia will be a place where farmers and local foods and agriculture businesses can make a living working within a robust network to grow, process, distribute, and market their products, and that provides healthy locally produced food to communities.
- WVFFC provides leadership to the local food and farm sector statewide by building a strong network equipped to grow food and farm business, promote access to local foods, share resources, as well as to connect the local food sector, change agricultural policy, and tell West Virginia's food and farm story statewide.

## SNAP in WV

- SNAP, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is a program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the state DHHR.
- SNAP was formerly known as food stamps and provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.
- As of 2019, 17.4% of West Virginians receive SNAP benefits. That's 314,042 of the 1.805 million population.
- These SNAP recipients received \$397.9 million in benefits to spend on food and food-producing plants. SNAP recipients spend their SNAP benefits using a SNAP EBT card, that looks like a debit/credit card. EBT stands for Electronic Benefits Transfer.

## SNAP STRETCH

- SNAP Stretch was developed to increase the buying power of SNAP recipients, increase the consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables, and decrease food insecurity. The program was piloted in 2018 and went into full-effect in the 2019 market season.
- The SNAP Stretch program matches SNAP benefits spent at participating farmers markets, farm stands, and local independent grocers through a 1:1 ratio, those with children are matched at a 1:2 ratio. The match can be used to purchase additional fruits and vegetables.
- In addition to the match, SNAP Stretch captures the initial federal dollars through SNAP benefits which profits West Virginia farmers and producers and increases sustainability of the sites

participating These dollars stay in-state which grows the local economy. Of the sites participating in 2019, \$53,000 was reimbursed to farmers and producers around the state.

- SNAP Stretch is funded by Pallottine Foundation of Huntington, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Walmart Foundation, USDA NIFA and other private donations.
- SNAP Stretch partners with WVU Extension Service - Family Nutrition Program, WV Farmers Market Association, WVSU Healthy Grandfamilies and other statewide agencies and organizations to implement and promote the program.
- Through 2020 COVID-19 relief funds, SNAP Stretch provided a 1:2 match for seniors and the match could be used to purchase meat, eggs, and dairy products in addition to fruits and vegetables. These program changes were made effective through December 2020.
- Currently there are 42 participating sites representing 29 counties. As of August 2020, \$150,000 had been reimbursed, reaching more than 2,000 SNAP recipients. The total budget for the 2020 market season was \$150,000.
- The COVID-19 pandemic increased patronage of markets around the state and school children in 53 counties in West Virginia received P-EBT cards. Between these factors, the SNAP Stretch program saw a 661% increase in participation which resulted in a draining of the budget allocated for 2020. As a result, a majority of the participating sites were put on pause with only a number operating with a cap on stretch given out. This was based on grant funds available to specific counties.
- The WVFFC has asked the governor for \$300,000 in CARES Act Funding, has asked for assistance from health funders, and has launched a crowdfunding campaign to jumpstart the program into full-effect for the remainder of 2020.
- Individuals who wish to donate to SNAP Stretch can do so at [SNAPStretch.com/donate](https://SNAPStretch.com/donate).

**For more information, visit [SNAPStretch.com](https://SNAPStretch.com) or contact us at [SNAPStretch@wvfoodandfarm.org](mailto:SNAPStretch@wvfoodandfarm.org).**