
Support HB 3211

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G. Harris, Turner, Pritchard, Lilly, D. Burke, Cassidy, Conyears-Ervin, Evans, Greenwood, Guzzardi, Welch, Mah, Harper, Jones, Thapedi, Winger, Moeller, Flowers, Fine, Conroy, Stuart, Riley, Williams

Federally Funded Food Assistance for Hungry Students in Vocational Programs

The problem:

Increased hunger on college campuses—associated with the rising cost of higher education, scarce financial aid, and the rapidly changing face of the traditional college student—has become a pressing issue in Illinois, especially among students at our community colleges. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) can reduce food insecurity but, as a rule, students attending college half-time or more are not eligible for SNAP.

What HB 3211 does:

The bill utilizes flexibility offered by the federal program to extend **SNAP eligibility to low-income adults pursuing a “Perkins Pathway” career and technical education (CTE) certificate or degree program at a community college.**

Ensuring eligibility for nutrition assistance to low-income students pursuing career and technical education is simple—Illinois can use a one page form to verify enrollment—and the cost to the state is negligible since **SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded.**

The bill also establishes a process by which the Illinois Student Assistance Commission identifies and notifies students who may be eligible for SNAP.

Impact on Students

Over 40,000 economically-disadvantaged students at our 49 community colleges could become eligible for SNAP under HB 3211. These students are enrolled in 16 career clusters including Health Science, Information Technology, and Manufacturing.

48% of college students

report experiencing food insecurity and **22%** report having to skip meals.



Moody’s Analytics estimates that every dollar increase in SNAP benefits generates about \$1.70 in economic activity.

For more info:

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Supportive Organizations

Center for Tax and Budget Accountability

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Chicago Jobs Council

Cook County Health and Hospitals System

EverThrive Illinois

Greater Chicago Food Depository

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights

Illinois Action for Children

Illinois Asset Building Group

Illinois Hunger Coalition

La Casa Norte

Legal Council for Health Justice

National Association of Social Workers – Illinois Chapter

New Moms, Inc.

Project IRENE

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

SEIU Healthcare Illinois

The Harbour

Unity Parenting and Counseling

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