

SNAP Changes in 2026



H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB), passed in July 2025 made many significant changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

To help Summit County residents better understand what this means, we are breaking down parts of the new law. This is only a small portion of the changes made to the program, and does not account for any changes in Medicaid. We will provide more guidance as it becomes available.

For more information, please visit co.summitoh.net/SNAPandMedicaid

Changes to Work Requirements

Increases work requirement age from 55 to 64	New	Previously, able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) aged 18-55 were already required to work 20hrs/week.
Child age exemption decreasing from 18 to 14	New	Now, all able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) aged 18-64 must work 20hrs/week, 80hrs/month, and provide adequate documentation.
Child age exemption decreasing from 18 to 14	New	Previously, raising a minor child meant you were exempt from work requirements.
Removes exemption for homeless or veteran status	New	Having a child 14+ years old is now not considered a barrier to fulfilling work requirements. Now, adults with children 14+ years old must fulfill all work requirements (20hrs/week).
Removes exemption for homeless or veteran status	New	Previously, being a veteran or being homeless meant you did not have to meet work requirements.
Removes exemption for homeless or veteran status	New	Now, veterans and homeless individuals must fulfill all work requirements (20hrs/week).

If you do not qualify for an exemption and you fail to meet these work requirements, you will only be eligible for SNAP benefits for 3 months in a 3 year period. This begins in March 2026. If you fail to meet requirements March, April, and May 2026 – **you will likely be ineligible for SNAP benefits through March 2029.**