



## **Poverty Among Colorado Families, Kids Remains High as U.S. House Prepares to Slash a Critical Lifeline September 19, 2013**

On the day the U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to debate drastic cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), hundreds of thousands of struggling Coloradans are still living in poverty and need food assistance to survive, according to new U.S. Census Bureau data.

In 2012 there were 694,842 Coloradans – or 13.7 percent – living in poverty, the Census report shows. Tragically, over 18 percent of Colorado’s children were living in poverty last year, much higher than at the start of the recession in 2007, when it was 15.9 percent.

In Colorado, 186,217 households relied on SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) to put food on the table last year, according to the new American Community Survey Census data. That was roughly 9.3 percent of all Colorado households. Among these struggling families are:

- **Seniors:** 21 percent of households had at least one senior over the age of 60.
- **Children:** 56 percent of households had at least one child under the age of 18.
- **People with Disabilities:** 41 percent of households had a person with a disability.
- **Workers:** 82 percent of households had at least one worker, while 32 percent had two or more.

Each of Colorado’s seven Congressional districts showed continued elevated rates of child and family poverty and unemployment, according to the Census data. See Table 1.

Now is not the time for cuts to a vital work support like SNAP that is helping families across Colorado get back on their feet. Colorado’s Congressional delegation should vote “No.” Contact your U.S. Representatives today and tell them to oppose HR 3102, the Nutrition Reform Work Opportunity Act of 2013, which cuts \$40 billion from the SNAP program and will leave tens of thousands of Coloradans hungry.

**(Capitol Switchboard, [202-224-3121](tel:202-224-3121))**

<b>TABLE 1:</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>DeGette CD-1</b>	<b>Polis CD-2</b>	<b>Tipton CD-3</b>	<b>Gardner CD-4</b>	<b>Lamborn CD-5</b>	<b>Coffman CD-6</b>	<b>Perlmutter CD-7</b>
<b>Children in Poverty</b>								
# of Children	1,206,677	161,240	148,755	160,506	191,912	175,371	195,758	173,135
# of Children in Poverty	218,243	42,262	15,318	37,640	31,312	31,123	28,036	32,552
% of Children in Poverty	18.1%	26.2%	10.3%	23.5%	16.3%	17.7%	14.3%	18.8%
<b>Population Below Poverty</b>								
Total Population	5,069,071	737,921	725,067	703,743	719,106	710,194	740881	732,159
# below poverty	694,842	131,952	89,148	117,691	89,425	92,466	82638	91,522
% with income below poverty	13.7%	17.9%	12.3%	16.7%	12.4%	13.0%	11.2%	12.5%
<b>Households w/ SNAP</b>								
Households with SNAP	186,217	35,451	15,511	37,307	24,816	24,824	21351	26957
With senior	21.1%	22.5%	20.5%	23.3%	19.8%	31.2%	20.7%	18.9%
With children under 18	56.2%	55.7%	51.4%	44.1%	60.7%	34.3%	65.5%	63.0%
With a disability	41.2%	34.5%	35.1%	47.4%	39.6%	23.5%	37.5%	42.3%
<b>Percent Unemployed</b>	7.8%	7.2%	6.9%	8.8%	6.9%	9.3%	7.7%	8.2%
<b>SNAP Families Working</b>								
Families on SNAP	128,947	23,207	9,745	23,807	17,286	18,351	16,609	19,942
No worker	18.3%	17.6%	16.8%	20.3%	15.3%	20.9%	12.9%	22.5%
1 worker	49.6%	51.1%	45.6%	44.5%	56.4%	45.1%	55.9%	48.8%
2 workers	32.1%	31.3%	37.6%	35.3%	28.2%	34.0%	31.2%	28.7%
% SNAP Families Working	81.7%	82.4%	83.2%	79.8%	84.6%	79.1%	87.1%	77.5%

For more information about the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2012 data on Income, Poverty and Health Insurance coverage in the states, visit:

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>

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