

Partner Fact Sheet: 3SquaresVT (SNAP) Changes Under Federal Law H.R.1

About this fact sheet:

This document is for community partners who work directly with 3SquaresVT households. 3SquaresVT is Vermont's name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This document summarizes federally required changes under H.R.1 (July 2025), when they take effect, and how partners can support households.

What's Changing for Households?

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Benefits & Eligibility (Effective October 2025)

- ▶ **Thrifty Food Plan (TFP):** Sets the maximum SNAP benefit levels. Future re-evaluations must be “*cost neutral*”. The TFP will still be adjusted every October for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- ▶ **Utility Allowance (“Heat & Eat”):** Automatic eligibility for the full allowance is limited to households with an elderly or disabled member. Other households may see benefits change based on actual utility costs.
- ▶ **Immigrant Eligibility:** Beginning Oct. 1, 2025, refugees, asylum seekers, and some other humanitarian categories will no longer be eligible for 3SquaresVT.

WHAT CAN PARTNERS DO TO HELP?

- ✓ Many households have not had to report their actual utility costs before. Partners can help clients report utility information to the Department for Children and Families (DCF), so benefits reflect the correct utility deduction.

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Work Requirements (Effective October 2025)

- ▶ **Exemptions removed:** People experiencing homelessness, veterans, and youth who aged out of foster care.
- ▶ **Exemptions added:** People who are federally recognized as Indians, Urban Indians, and other Indians who are eligible for Indian Health Care Services.
- ▶ **Age range expanded:** Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) are now ages 18–64 (previously 18–54).
- ▶ **Parent exemption narrowed:** Applies only if children are under age 14 (previously under 18).

WHAT CAN PARTNERS DO TO HELP?

- ✓ If households had qualifying work or exemptions in the past that were not reported, partners can help them submit documentation before Feb. 2026 — eligibility can be backdated.
- ✓ The [personal obstacle or barrier exemption](#) needs sign-off from community partners. Partners can proactively work with customers to complete this paperwork to avoid gaps in benefits.

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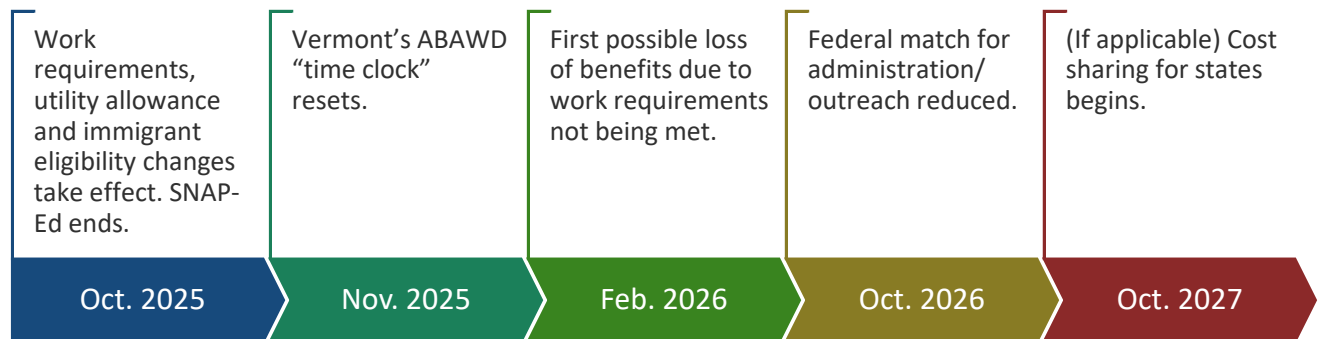
Program Funding Changes (Various effective dates)

- ▶ **SNAP-Ed:** Federal funding for nutrition education ends Oct. 2025.
- ▶ **Administrative funding:** Federal match for admin and outreach costs decreases from 50% to 25% in Oct. 2026.
- ▶ **State cost-sharing of benefits:** Beginning Oct. 2027, states may be required to pay 0–15% of SNAP benefit costs, depending on federal error rates.

WHAT CAN PARTNERS DO TO HELP?

- ✓ Keep up the good work! Vermont's anticipated share is currently 0% due to consistently low error rates — reflecting the accuracy Vermont partners bring to their work with households.

Overview Timeline:



Next Steps

- ▶ DCF is updating systems, training staff, and will be mailing out notices.
- ▶ Partners can support this effort by sharing accurate information and assisting clients with reporting any changes in their circumstances. Timely reporting is required and essential to ensure that clients receive the most accurate benefit amounts
- ▶ To report a change, please call us at: 1-800-479-6151, Monday through Friday 7:45am to 4:30pm, with the exception of Thursday when the hours are 9am to 4:30pm

Questions?



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