SNAP QUICK FACTS

ENROLLMENT TRENDS
- Number of Americans participating in SNAP (monthly average)
  - ⇒ 17.6 million in 1976
  - ⇒ 26.3 million in 2007
  - ⇒ 46.2 million in April 2012
- Nearly 50% of current SNAP beneficiaries are children
- 50% of children will have participated in SNAP by age 19
- Less than 33% of eligible older Americans participate in SNAP
- 1.5 million veterans' households participate in the program
- 60% of eligible working poor participate in SNAP

ELIGIBILITY
- Monthly income at or below 130% of the federal poverty level (FPL)
  - ⇒ In 2010, average participating household income was 57% of the federal poverty line
- Undocumented immigrants, most college students, and certain legal immigrants are ineligible
- 28% of Americans eligible for SNAP benefits are *not* enrolled in the program

PROGRAM COSTS
- Total program budget was $75.6 billion in FY2011
- SNAP represents 71.9% of total USDA food assistance spending
- 92% of SNAP budget went directly to benefits that households used to purchase foods
- The U.S. House of Representatives 2012 Farm Bill proposal includes $16 billion in cuts to SNAP over the next decade—which would translate into the loss of food assistance for 2 to 3 million people and the loss of free school meals for 280,000 children whose eligibility is tied to their families' SNAP benefits

BENEFITS
- SNAP is an important economic stimulus program to mitigate the impact of economic recessions in America by sustaining demand for goods and services
  - ⇒ Every $1 in SNAP benefits generates up to $1.80 in economic activity
- *Included items*: Most edible foods (grains, fruits and vegetables, meats, fish and poultry, pastries, snacks, dairy products, etc.), plants/seeds to grow for consumption
- *Restricted items*: Alcohol, tobacco, vitamins, pet food, food eaten in the store, hot food, dietary supplements
- In 2011, average benefit $133.85 per month per person
- For households with no income, maximum allowance of $200 per month for a single person and $668 per month for a family of four