



## POLICY ALERT

Center for Public Policy Priorities

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### The Food Stamp Program is Turning 30: Let's Make This Birthday a Happy One!



For 30 years, the Food Stamp Program has ensured that low-income Americans have the means to afford a healthy diet – strengthening families, communities, and the nation. Today, more than 2.3 million low-income Texans – most of them children, seniors, or someone with a disability – use Food Stamps to supplement their food budgets. However, cuts to the program 10 years ago have reduced the purchasing power of Food Stamps, making it harder for families to afford an adequate diet. The average family now receives only \$3 per person per day for food.

Children who go to school hungry cannot learn. Seniors without adequate nutrition are at greater risk of disease, often forced to choose between medicine and food. But hunger doesn't just take a toll on Texas families; it costs the state more than \$9 billion a year in charity, treatment of diet-related illnesses, and lower economic productivity. We can help prevent hunger by strengthening the Food Stamp Program. Act now by asking our senators to support a modest increase in the Food Stamp benefit in the 2007 Farm Bill.

To send a letter to Senators Cornyn and Hutchison in support of the 2007 Farm Bill and the Food Stamp Program's 30th birthday, visit [http://ga4.org/campaign/Farm\\_Bill\\_Mark\\_Up\\_Senate](http://ga4.org/campaign/Farm_Bill_Mark_Up_Senate).

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