



# Early Childhood Day at the Legislature 2026

## 3SquaresVT Administrative Funding

# What is 3SquaresVT?

- **The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is known as 3SquaresVT in Vermont**
- **It is the most equitable and effective federal nutrition program that helps Vermonters with money to buy groceries**



# 3SquaresVT supports...

**63,480**  
individuals

**38,616**  
households

**18,531**  
children



*Data: ESD Data Team, September 2025  
U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Av. '21-'23*

## **3SquaresVT Expands Grocery Budgets**

- Average monthly household benefit: \$318

## **3SquaresVT is Private & Dignified**

- Spends like a debit card
- Gives choice to the shopper

## **3SquaresVT Supports the Economy**

- Keeps ~\$12.3 million a month in VT
- Supports farmers, growers, grocers, businesses





# H.R. 1: Impact on 3SquaresVT

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed into law **H.R. 1, marking the largest-ever cut to our nation's most effective and dignified federal nutrition program**, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), called 3SquaresVT in our state.

Despite these harmful changes, **3SquaresVT remains our state's most effective and efficient program** to reduce hunger and poverty, particularly in rural, high living cost states like Vermont.

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# H.R. 1: Impact on 3SquaresVT

- **H.R. 1 made funding cuts and eligibility changes to SNAP and Medicaid, in order to fund steep tax breaks to our nation's most wealthy.**
  - **Forcing every state, including Vermont, to make time consuming and complex changes to our eligibility systems, and contend with a bigger foot of the bill.**
  - **Forcing low-income people to see reductions or total losses in their monthly 3SquaresVT benefits.**
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# H.R.1 Program Changes to SNAP

## Program changes – Effective October 1, 2025

- Changes to how households report calculate utility costs, resulting in an immediate benefit decrease for **2,600 households**.
- Expanded work requirement (3 month time limit) - impacting up to approx. **4,400 households** including adults 55-65, Veterans, unhoused people, caretakers of kids 14+.
- Restricts 3SquaresVT for many “non-citizen” categories - impacting approx. **119 households**

# H.R.1 Funding Changes to SNAP

## **Increase in State Cost to Administer 3SquaresVT - October 1, 2026**

- Reduces federal reimbursement for administration from 50% to 25%
- Estimated to cost Vermont an additional \$4.5 million in SFY2027
- Investing \$4.5 million now will allow Vermont to bring in over \$150 million in federal dollars in the same 12 month period.

## **Penalty if Payment Error Rate is 6% or more - October 1, 2027**

- May trigger 5-15% state contribution to monthly benefits with PER of 6% or more
- Estimated to cost Vermont \$7-\$22 million annually *if we face this penalty*

# Our Request to the Legislature

Ensure that the Department for Children and Families (DCF), Economic Services Division (ESD) **has the necessary funds to administer a fully functioning 3SquaresVT program.**

DCF estimates this will cost an additional \$4.5 million, which was included in the Governor's recommended budget.



# Current Status of this Request



**The full funding that DCF has requested was included in the Governor's recommended budget, and is expected to be fully funded in the House budget next week.**

**Next steps:**

- **Ensure \$4.5 million is included for CF SNAP administration in the Senate budget!**

# Questions?

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