

Local Law 134 of 2017

Annual Report 2024: January 1 - December 31

Local Law 134 of 2017 requires the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) to submit to the Speaker of the City Council the following annual report for 2024 regarding the department's activities with respect to supplemental nutrition assistance enrollment and recertification for seniors.

Such report shall provide an overview of the department's activities with respect to supplemental nutrition assistance enrollment and recertification for seniors, including the public campaign and the enrollment and recertification program, and shall include (i) the number of seniors enrolled in the supplemental nutrition assistance program in the previous calendar year; (ii) the number of seniors recertified for the supplemental nutrition assistance program in the previous calendar year; and (iii) a comparison of the annual rate of enrollment for seniors versus the number of seniors in the city that the department estimates are likely to be eligible based on readily available community data such as census data. Beginning on February 1, 2019, the report shall indicate how the data required by this subdivision compares to the previous year. The report shall further indicate the method by which seniors enrolled in or recertified for the supplemental nutrition assistance program, whether online, by mobile application, by telephone, by paper application, or by other means.

Method of Enrollment and Recertification for SNAP

To make SNAP enrollment easier, a Simplified SNAP Application/Recertification form (LDSS 5166) is available for older adults (60 years of age and older) and New Yorkers with disabilities, whose households are without earned income. Clients can access the Simplified SNAP application online at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/snap-benefits-food-program.page> or they may call Infoline to request that a paper version be mailed to them.

Pursuant to a waiver granted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service which the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) pursued at HRA/DSS' request, cases with all adults 55 years of age or older and/or cases where all adults are disabled can also recertify for SNAP benefits by phone using an automated Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS), if there is:

- No budgeted earned income (from job or self-employment);
- No change to unearned income (Supplemental Security Income [SSI], Social Security, pension, etc.); and
- No change in residence or household composition.

Older adults may also apply and recertify (if they have changes to residence or income) or manage their SNAP case using the ACCESS HRA (AHRA) website or mobile application using a smartphone or tablet. They may also submit documentation using the ACCESS HRA Mobile app. Clients who lack internet access or internet-ready mobile devices, or who need additional in-person assistance, may also visit any HRA center or a partnering Community-Based Organization. In addition, HRA has partnered with Hunger Free America to take SNAP applications and recertifications from older adults or individuals with disabilities over the phone who are unable to avail themselves of the aforementioned methods. HRA's partnership with Hunger Free America included targeted outreach to recipients of NYC's GetFoodNYC delivery program who were likely eligible but not enrolled in SNAP, and the organization continues to assist older adults and other individuals who may be homebound or digitally disconnected with applying for SNAP over telephone by utilizing a verbal signature.

HRA also permits all SNAP eligibility interviews to be conducted by phone "On-Demand" by clients initiating a call to HRA at their convenience, rather than visiting a center for an in-person interview, unless they chose to.

SNAP Campaign Advertising in 2024

In 2024 we continued our outreach campaign targeting existing clients, including older adults; this campaign included collateral distributed at Benefits Access Centers, food pantries, community-based organizations, libraries, and older adult centers.

Older adults were a part of our target audience for organic social media throughout 2024; our target audiences also included a focus by neighborhood; in addition, we also targeted single parents/guardians.

SNAP Outreach Older Adult Center Engagement

In 2024, DSS Outreach continued in-person services at community partner locations. From January 2024 – December 2024, DSS Outreach provided recurring in-person and virtual services at thirty-four (34) older adult centers and older adult serving partner organizations.

ACCESS HRA, ACCESS HRA Provider Portal, and SNAP application trainings also continued to be offered virtually. In 2024, DSS conducted a total of eighty (80) trainings, which included 2,123 attendees, in using these tools to submit SNAP and other benefit applications; and provide benefit case management via ACCESS HRA. Training attendees include staff from other municipal agencies and community partner organizations, including older adult center staff. These trainings were also a forum for questions and concerns from providers and advocates working directly with HRA and DHS clients, including older adults.

(i) the number of seniors enrolled in the supplemental nutrition assistance program in the previous calendar year

- There were 590,381 older adults on SNAP during 2024. This is an unduplicated count over the course of the year
- There were 567,078 older adults on SNAP during 2023. This is an unduplicated count over the course of the year
- There were 546,848 older adults on SNAP during 2022. This is an unduplicated count over the course of the year.
- There were 513,830 older adults on SNAP during 2021. This is an unduplicated count over the course of the year.
- There were 490,793 older adults on SNAP during 2020. This is an unduplicated count over the course of the year.
- There were 481,520 older adults on SNAP during 2019. This is an unduplicated count over the course of the year.
- There were 477,290 older adults on SNAP during 2018. This is an unduplicated count over the course of the year.
- There were 470,197 older adults on SNAP during 2017. This is an unduplicated count over the course of the year.

(ii) the number of seniors recertified for the supplemental nutrition assistance program in the previous calendar year

127,019 older adults were recertified for SNAP during 2024. Recertifications take place at the case level, but since the Local Law reporting requirement is for older adult individuals, we looked at the case recertification information and then counted the number of older adults on the case.

It is important to note that just because someone was on SNAP during 2024 does not mean that they had to recertify in 2024.

2024 SNAP Recertification Rate

All SNAP	NCA SNAP
All Individuals	
85.4%	85.1%
Older Adults Only	
85.7%	85.8%

137,036* older adults were recertified for SNAP during 2023. Recertifications take place at the case level, but since the Local Law reporting requirement is for older adult individuals, we looked at the case recertification information and then counted the number of older adults on the case.

It is important to note that just because someone was on SNAP during 2023 does not mean that they had to recertify in 2023.

2023 SNAP Recertification Rate

All SNAP	NCA SNAP
All Individuals	
78.9%	79.0%
Older adults Only	
82.6%	82.7%

213,168* older adults were recertified for SNAP during 2022. Recertifications take place at the case level, but since the Local Law reporting requirement is for older adult individuals, we looked at the case recertification information and then counted the number of older adults on the case.

It is important to note that just because someone was on SNAP during 2022 does not mean that they had to recertify in 2022.

2022 SNAP Recertification Rate

All SNAP	NCA SNAP
All Individuals	
74.3%	75.3%
Older Adults Only	
82.2%	82.4%

105,461* older adults were recertified for SNAP during 2021. Recertifications take place at the case level, but since the Local Law reporting requirement is for older adult individuals, we looked at the case recertification information and then counted the number of older adults on the case.

It is important to note that just because someone was on SNAP during 2021 does not mean that they had to recertify in 2021.

2021 SNAP Recertification Rate

All SNAP	NCA SNAP
All Individuals	
77.3%	78.0%
Older Adults Only	
79.9%	80.0%

91,002* older adults were recertified for SNAP during 2020. Recertifications take place at the case level, but since the Local Law reporting requirement is for older adult individuals, we looked at the case recertification information and then counted the number of older adults on the case.

It is important to note that just because someone was on SNAP during 2020 does not mean that they had to recertify in 2020.

2020 SNAP Recertification Rate

* In late March 2020, HRA received from NYS OTDA a temporary waiver of the telephone interview requirement for both new applicants and households recertifying for SNAP if all eligibility criteria were able to be verified through documentation submitted or by collateral contact. Recertifications during the subsequent months were rescheduled to later dates, resulting in lower recertification numbers than would have occurred without the waivers.

All SNAP	NCA SNAP
All Individuals	
76.7%	76.9%
Older Adults Only	
80.4%	80.7%

2019 NUMBERS: 186,536 older adults were recertified for SNAP in 2019. Recertifications take place at the case level, but since the Local Law reporting requirement is for older adult individuals, we looked at the case recertification information and then counted the number of older adults on the case.

It is important to note that just because someone was on SNAP during 2019 does not mean that they had to recertify in 2019.

2019 SNAP Recertification Rate

All SNAP	NCA SNAP
All Individuals	
79.5%	78.1%
Older Adults Only	
84.5% [†]	88.2% [†]

2018 NUMBERS: 150,460 older adults were recertified for SNAP in 2018. Recertifications take place at the case level, but since the Local Law reporting requirement is for older adult individuals, we looked at the case recertification information and then counted the number of older adults on the case.

It is important to note that just because someone was on SNAP during 2018 does not mean that they had to recertify in 2018.

2018 SNAP Recertification Rate

All SNAP	NCA SNAP
All Individuals	
79.8%	78.6%
Older Adults Only	
81.9%	81.7%

2017 NUMBERS: 159,190 older adults were recertified for SNAP in 2017. Recertifications take place at the case level, but since the Local Law reporting requirement is for older adult individuals, we looked at the case recertification information and then counted the number of older adults on the case.

It is important to note that just because someone was on SNAP during 2017 does not mean that they had to recertify in 2017.

2017 SNAP Recertification Rate

All SNAP	NCA SNAP
All Individuals	
79.9%	79.1%
Older Adults Only	
84.1%	84.6%

(iii) a comparison of the annual rate of enrollment for seniors versus the number of seniors in the city that the department estimates are likely to be eligible based on readily available community data such as census data

The data in the section below compare the annual rate of enrollment for older adults to the number of older adults in the City that DSS/HRA estimates are likely eligible based on readily available community data.

The 2023 older adult (age 60+) SNAP participation rate was 75.9% (507,736 enrolled/669,300 estimated eligible for SNAP), greater than the 2022 older adult SNAP participation rate of 74.1% (478,106 enrolled/644,832 estimated eligible for SNAP). (We use age 60+ as the older adult cutoff because SNAP eligibility rules define older adults as age 60+.)

The calculation of the SNAP participation rate equals: “the average monthly number of older adults on the SNAP caseload” divided by the “number of older adults who appear SNAP-eligible in NYC based on Census Bureau American Community Survey data.”

The latest data on SNAP participation in NYC overall—see Table 1 below for details. In brief:

- NYC’s SNAP caseload increased 1 percent between 2023 and 2022, from a monthly average of 1.71 million to 1.73 million in 2023.
- The estimated SNAP **participation rate in 2023**—that is, the proportion of NYC SNAP-eligible individuals who received SNAP each month—similarly increased, reaching **78.1%, compared to 75.1% in 2022**.

Table 1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates for 2010–2023*	
Year	New York City
2023	78.1%
2022	75.1%
2021	72.1%
2019	74.7%
2018	72.6%
2017	70.9%
2016	72.4%**
2015	72.5%
2014	73.9%
2013	77.0%
2012	76.6%

2011	76.4%
2010	76.8%

* This chart’s data is limited to years 2010-2023 because HRA/DSS researchers estimate the City’s SNAP participation rate based on Census Bureau survey data, and 2024 data won’t be available until late 2025. Also note that 2020 estimates are not included. Due to challenges faced by the US Census Bureau in administering the American Community Survey (ACS) during COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 ACS survey data (released in late 2021) are considered “experimental,” and are less robust than data from other years.

** This rate applies the eligibility rules in effect through June 2016 on the average caseload during the first half of the year, and then takes into account the increased gross income limit for working households (to 150% versus 130% FPL) for the second half of the year. This rule change led to a substantial increase in the number of SNAP-eligible individuals, but only a small increase in recipients (individuals in this income range would likely be eligible for only a small SNAP benefit), thus notably lowering the overall participation rate estimate for 2017.

Sources: NYC Human Resources Administration administrative data for SNAP enrollment; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 1-year files for estimated number of residents eligible to receive SNAP benefits.

Table 2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates for Older Adults, 2013–2023	
Year	NYC Older Adults (age 60+)
2023	75.9%
2022	74.1%
2021	71.9%
2019	75.6%
2018	72.9%
2017	73.0%
2016	70.9%**
2015	68.2%
2014	69.5%
2013	68.4%

* This chart's data is limited to years 2010-2023 because HRA/DSS researchers estimate the City's SNAP participation rate based on Census Bureau survey data, and 2024 data won't be available until late 2025. Also note that 2020 estimates are not included. Due to challenges faced by the US Census Bureau in administering the American Community Survey (ACS) during COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 ACS survey data (released in late 2021) are considered "experimental," and are less robust than data from other years.

** This rate applies the eligibility rules in effect through June 2016 on the average caseload during the first half of the year, and then takes into account the increased gross income limit for working households (to 150% versus 130% FPL) for the second half of the year. This rule change led to a substantial increase in the number of SNAP-eligible individuals, but only a small increase in recipients (individuals in this income range would likely be eligible for only a small SNAP benefit), thus notably lowering the overall participation rate estimate for 2017.

Sources: NYC Human Resources Administration administrative data for SNAP enrollment; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample 1-year files for estimated number of residents eligible to receive SNAP benefits.