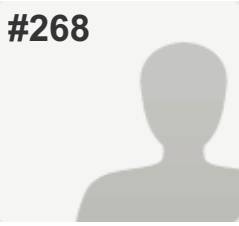


Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

#268



COMPLETE

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PAGE 1

Q1: OPTIONAL: This recommendation was submitted by (please provide your first and last name, affiliation, and email address)

First Name	Lyndel
Last Name	Urbano
Affiliation	Gay Men's Health Crisis
Email Address	lyndelu@gmhc.org

Q2: Title of your recommendation Nutrition assistance for people affected by SNAP cuts

Q3: Please provide a description of your proposed recommendation

Bridge the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) gap by providing state assistance to pay for food.

Because of changes in eligibility enacted in 2014 federal Agricultural Act, effective October 1 approximately 4,500 NYC residents and 11,000 New Yorkers overall received extreme cuts to SNAP benefits: from \$189/month to \$32, \$22, or \$16 depending on particular circumstances. After the new federal law went into effect in March, NYS was able to temporarily increase HEAP benefits to maintain SNAP benefits during the law's implementation period. That option ran out as of October 1 and benefits have been cut dramatically from \$189 a month for a single individual to as little at \$16 a month.

Q4: For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? (Select all that apply)

Linking and retaining persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission

Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

Q5: This recommendation should be considered by the following Ending the Epidemic Task Force Committee (Select all that apply)

Housing and Supportive Services Committee:
Develop recommendations that strengthen proven interventions enabling optimal engagement and linkage and retention in care for those most in need. This Committee will recommend interventions that effectively address complex and intersecting health and social conditions and reduce health disparities, particularly among New York's low-income and most vulnerable and marginalized residents. These interventions will diminish barriers to care and enhance access to care and treatment leaving no subpopulation behind.

Q6: Does this recommendation require a change to an existing policy or program, or the creation of a new policy or program?

Unknown

Q7: Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?

Permitted under current law

Q8: Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)?

Within the next year

Q9: What are the perceived benefits of implementing this recommendation?

Because of changes in eligibility enacted in 2014 federal Agricultural Act, effective October 1 approximately 4,500 NYC residents and 11,000 New Yorkers overall received extreme cuts to SNAP benefits: from \$189/month to \$32, \$22, or \$16 depending on particular circumstances. People affected by this are primarily residents of public or other subsidized housing, supportive group housing, and residential treatment centers who did not have a HEAP benefit in the 12 months prior to March 10, 2014.

Q10: Are there any concerns with implementing this recommendation that should be considered?

Please see below.

Q11: What is the estimated cost of implementing this recommendation and how was this estimate calculated?

Bridging the gap will cost the state approximately \$16.8 million, assuming that new SNAP enrollments remain steady.

Q12: What is the estimated return on investment (ROI) for this recommendation and how was the ROI calculated?

Food insecurity is linked to breaks in continuity of care and treatment adherence. Many HIV medications require stick adherence to nutritious diets. Reduction in SNAP would lead to an increase in need for the already overburdened emergency food assistance programs in NYS. Specifically, food pantries, HPNAP and Ryan White supported nutrition programs.

Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

Q13: Who are the key individuals/stakeholders who would benefit from this recommendation?

11,000 New Yorkers who received extreme cuts to SNAP

People affected by this are primarily residents of public or other subsidized housing, supportive group housing, and residential treatment centers who did not have a HEAP benefit in the 12 months prior to March 10, 2014.

Q14: Are there suggested measures to accompany this recommendation that would assist in monitoring its impact?

Continue state level efforts to track usage and effectiveness of nutritional support measures.

Q15: This recommendation was submitted by one of the following Other (please specify) HIV/AIDS Service Provider