



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

State Food Assistance: **Protection for Hungry Families**

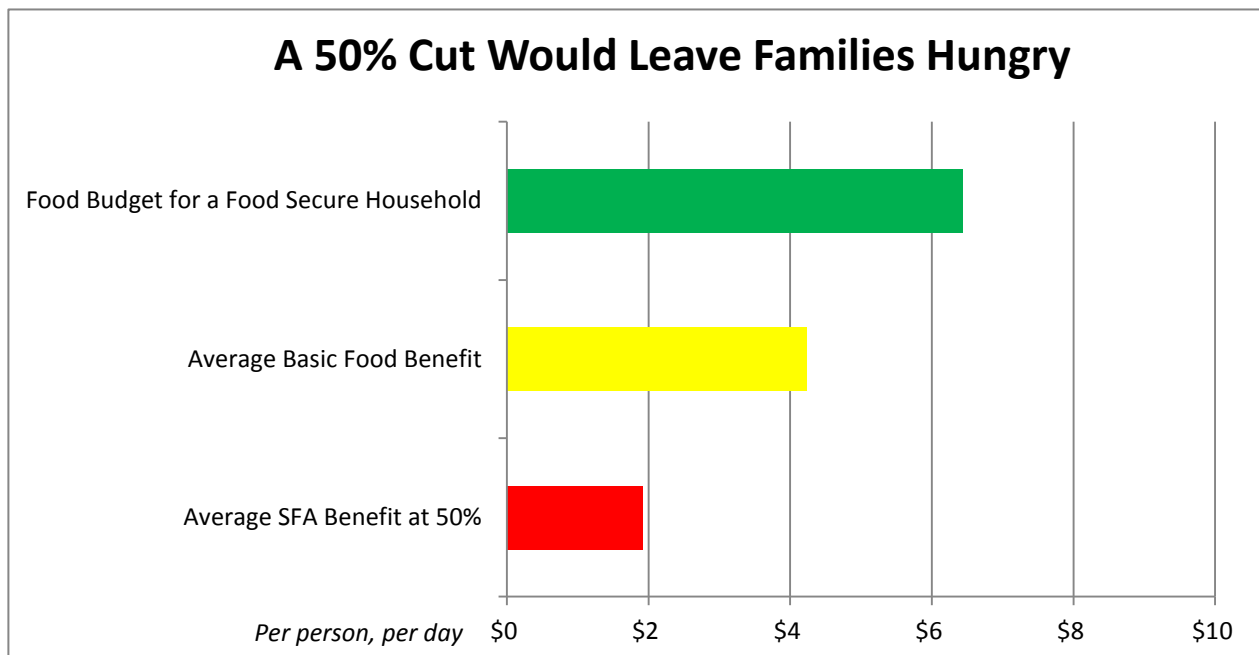
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On February 29th, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the injunction prohibiting the Department of Social and Health Services from eliminating or cutting benefits provided under the State Food Assistance Program (SFA). Legal protection for more than 31,000 people, including 12,500 children, living in households receiving SFA no longer exists.

If SFA is cut by half, these households will NOT have sufficient funds to prevent hunger. The impact on children in the households will be particularly severe – food insecurity increases the likelihood children will:

- be sick and stay sick;
- miss more school;
- be lethargic or aggressive;
- miss out on social and educational opportunities.

Childhood hunger has a simple fix: Give kids the nutritious food they need. **Restore protection for hungry families; restore State Food Assistance.**



Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Security in America 2010, September 2011; Department of Social and Health Services, 2011.

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