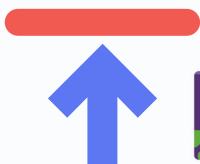


A Case of Disparity and Inequity: Puerto Rico's Right to SNAP

Exclusion

- In 1981, the U.S. **excluded Puerto Rico** from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), reducing much-needed aid by about **25%**.

↓ **25%**



NAP

- The island currently receives aid through the **Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)**, known locally as Tarjeta del Pan.
- Unlike SNAP, which is based on need, NAP is a **capped federal block grant**.

NAP's Shortcomings

- Because **NAP is capped**, as enrollment increases, participants' monthly **benefits decrease**.
- NAP severely limits Puerto Rico's ability to manage changes in demand due to **demographic shifts, inflation, recession and natural disasters**.
- Additional funds for emergencies require separate, new appropriations by Congress and **take months to obtain**.



43%

Living
below
poverty
line



More Food Insecurity and Poverty

- Over decades, Puerto Rico has endured difficult circumstances that have **steadily increased poverty rates**.
- More than **43%** of the population is **living below the poverty line** and dependent on some form of government aid.
- Exclusion from SNAP has exacerbated **food insecurity** and **poverty** in Puerto Rico.

Far-Reaching Impact

- More than **1.4 million** P.R. residents and nearly **780,000** households receive some level of nutrition assistance aid.
- Half of the beneficiaries are elderly **28%** and children **22%**, and **57%** are women.



U.S. Citizens Deserve Better

- Americans on the **U.S. mainland, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam** and the **District of Columbia** receive SNAP.
- But although Puerto Ricans are U.S. Citizens, they receive a fraction of what their fellow Americans receive—**44% to 280%** less.
- Inclusion in SNAP would **increase** the island's nutritional aid by **\$2 billion**.

A Call for Change

- The **disparities** and **inequities** created and sustained by Puerto Rico's exclusion from SNAP must end.
- The U.S.' pledge to champion **equity** and **fairness** calls for legislative action to **integrate Puerto Rico** into SNAP.

Puerto Rico
SNAP

