

### **1. What is the SNAP-Ed Program?**

SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) is a federally funded initiative that helps individuals and families eligible for SNAP make healthier food choices and lead more active lifestyles, all while staying within a limited budget. The program aims to reduce food insecurity and improve the overall health of communities by offering free nutrition education in schools and community settings, classes on budgeting and cooking nutritious meals, and resources that support healthy eating and physical activity. Additionally, SNAP-Ed supports policy, systems, and environmental changes that promote long-term health and nutrition at the community level.

### **2. Who pays for the SNAP-Ed Program?**

SNAP-Ed is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). States receive funding and partner with local agencies to deliver services. In Maine, the state Office for Family Independence receives the funding, and the program is administered by the University of New England (UNE) in collaboration with local partners like Healthy Lincoln County.

### **3. What is happening to Healthy Lincoln County's SNAP-Ed Program?**

Due to recent federal budget reductions, funding for all SNAP-Ed programs nationwide, including Healthy Lincoln County's, will end on September 30, 2025.

### **4. Are other Healthy Lincoln County programs impacted?**

No, the current changes are specific to the SNAP-Ed program. All other HLC programs currently remain unaffected and continue to operate as usual. We are committed to ensuring the continued success and stability of our full range of programs.

### **5. Why is the program being defunded?**

The elimination of SNAP-Ed is part of the recent federal budget reductions, which ended funding for SNAP-Ed and related obesity prevention efforts nationwide. This is not a state-level decision; it affects the national program, the Maine state program, and local programs such as the one at Healthy Lincoln County.

### **6. Is there any chance the program will be restored?**

Restoration would require new federal legislation. While advocacy efforts exist to reinstate funding, there is currently no sign that funding will be restored.

### **7. What does this mean for current SNAP-Ed services in schools and communities?**

Our educator has contacted all partners with currently scheduled programming and will remain active in community settings through September 30, 2025. Classes and programs that are currently running or advertised will continue as scheduled. However, based on the information we have at this time, we are not planning to begin school-based programming this fall. Our educator will be in touch with our school partners directly to provide updates and discuss next steps.

### **8. Will nutrition education classes continue through the summer and fall?**

Summer classes and Farmers' Market programming that are currently happening or advertised will continue as planned. Fall programming scheduled to begin after September 30, 2025, will not take place.

### **9. How many staff and communities are affected?**

A network of over 28,000 local partners work within states nationally to deliver SNAP-Education. The Maine SNAP-Education program operates statewide, with educators serving schools, community organizations, and families in every county. The funding reduction affects dozens of staff and hundreds of community partners in Maine alone. Learn more about the impact of SNAP-Education across the state of Maine: [Maine SNAP Education 2024 Infographic](#).

### **10. What is being done in support of SNAP-Education?**

The [Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators](#) is advocating for SNAP-Education at the federal level.

### **11. Should partners continue to refer people to SNAP-Education?**

Yes. We encourage referrals and participation in SNAP-Education programming through September 30, 2025. If we are unable to provide services directly, our educator can help talk you through your options and connect you with other available resources.

### **12. What happens to scheduled programming after September 30, 2025?**

Programming will conclude at the end of September. We will work with partners to wrap up services and share alternative resources where possible.

### **13. Is Healthy Lincoln County exploring ways to continue the program locally?**

Yes. We are assessing what it would take, financially and operationally, to preserve core elements of the program. This includes identifying replacement costs for curriculum, implementation materials, training, and evaluation tools, and exploring potential funding sources or partnerships.

### **14. How much does it cost to provide SNAP-Education in our community, and why is this investment important?**

Healthy Lincoln County received nearly \$70,000 in federal SNAP-Education funding this year, but the actual cost of sustaining the program—including educator wages, travel, materials, and administrative support—is closer to \$125,000 annually. This investment goes far beyond basic nutrition education; it ensures access to high-quality curricula, professional training, evaluation tools, and outreach resources. The impact is seen in healthier families, improved food security, and a stronger network of local partners working together to support community well-being.

### **15. How will updates be communicated?**

Updates will be shared through our newsletter and on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Follow us @HealthyLincolnCounty, and sign up for the HLC Newsletter [here](#).

### **16. How can community members or partners help celebrate the impact of SNAP-Education?**

We invite you to help honor the legacy of SNAP-Education in Lincoln County by sharing stories, testimonials, or letters of appreciation. These reflections from staff, partners, and participants will be collected and shared publicly later this year to celebrate the program's impact. Share your story [here](#).

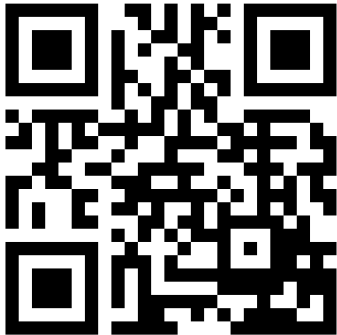
### **17. Who can I contact with questions?**

For question, please contact Katie MacDonald, Director of Healthy Lincoln County, at 207-563-1330 x1 or [director@healthylincolncounty.org](mailto:director@healthylincolncounty.org).

## QR CODES TO LINKED RESOURCES



Maine SNAP-Ed 2024 Infographic



Visit the Association of SNAP Nutrition  
Education Administrators website



Sign up for the Healthy Lincoln County  
Monthly Newsletter



Share your SNAP-Ed stories!