

July Food Stamp Participation Jumps Another 1 Percent

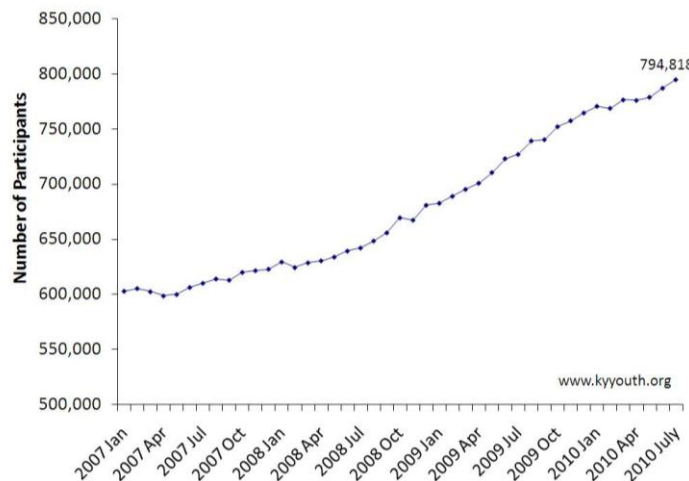
Persistent Growth in Participation Highlights Continued Need for Funding Support Services

After a slight decrease in April, food stamp participation increased three months in a row, peaking again in July. This data point indicates the level of need for government assistance. Many Kentuckians are relying on this important support during the recession in the midst of persistently [high unemployment](#). Kentucky's Food Stamp Program, part of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), helps people buy food who have little or no money.

The number of people receiving food stamps in July increased by more than 7,500 since the previous month. Participation is still significantly higher than it was at the start of the recession, with over 165,000 more people using food stamps to supplement their income, compared to January 2008.

SNAP received a blow at the beginning of August when Congress passed the FMAP extension. While this federal money helps Kentucky with the cost of Medicaid, the current legislation offsets the costs with funding from SNAP, just as the need for this vital food assistance program keeps increasing. By restoring cuts to SNAP and reauthorizing the Child Nutrition Act Congress can ensure families and children have access to the foods they need to be healthy.

July Food Stamp Participation up 26 Percent Since Start of Recession



Source: Cabinet for Health and Family Services: Division of Family Support.

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http://www.kyyouth.org/Issue_Areas/budget/KentuckyEconomicWatch.html.

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