THE REAL IMPACT OF PUBLIC BENEFITS

Assistance programs like SNAP, WIC, and Medicaid are more than just safety nets. They’re investments in a healthier, more promising future — for everyone.

OLDER ADULTS
Lower healthcare costs
For older Americans on Medicaid and Medicare, food assistance can reduce nursing home admissions by 23% and hospitalizations by 14%. 1, 2

More reliable access to medicine
Older adults who enroll in SNAP are more likely to be able to afford and stay on their medications. 3

CHILDREN
Better health
SNAP, WIC, and Medicaid are associated with improved long-term health and a lower risk of health problems later in life, such as heart disease and diabetes. 4, 5, 6

Better education
Food assistance and access to health insurance are linked to gains in reading and math and higher graduation rates. 7, 8

More stability
Increased access to SNAP benefits may reduce the need for foster care and child protective service interventions. 9

PARENTS & FAMILIES
Increased earnings
SNAP participation during early childhood helps women achieve self-sufficiency through increased educational attainment and earnings. 10

Longer life expectancy
Public benefits prolong life — for example, access to Medicaid is associated with a 12% reduction in mortality. 11

STUDENTS
Better academic outcomes
SNAP enrollment can increase retention among food-insecure students. 12

Higher earnings after college
Every $1,000 in Pell Grant aid increases a student’s future earnings by more than $1,000. 13

COMMUNITIES
More jobs
Every $1 billion spent on SNAP supports over 13,500 jobs. 14

More growth
Every $1 invested in food assistance generates approximately $1.50 in economic activity. 15

LEARN MORE
To learn more about the impact of public benefits on health and social outcomes, visit bdtrust.org/why-benefits or scan the code with your camera app.


