

Latest work requirements for access to social security programs

On May 6, Megan Thompson reported in her “[Chasing the Dream](#)” series that lawmakers in Maine are debating whether the policy Pres. Trump signed April 10 pushing certain work requirements for access to social security programs like Medicaid or SNAP (food stamps) helps those who need it the most. See the news show at: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-work-requirements-for-social-security-programs-impact-people-in-need>

Trump has long accused beneficiaries of abusing government assistance programs and has claimed many who have no intention of working make more in benefits than those with jobs.

Most people who use SNAP, who are able to hold jobs do work, but they don't earn enough to pay for food and cover other expenses.

According to 2015 data from the Department of Agriculture, 44% of the total households using the SNAP program had someone in the family earning money.

Rebecca Vallas, vice president of the Poverty to Prosperity Program at the Center for American Progress, said Trump's executive order served to reinforce myths about poverty in the U.S.

“By using dog-whistle terms like ‘welfare,’ Trump's trying to paint people who turn to Medicaid, SNAP, and other public programs as Reagan's mythical ‘welfare queen’ — so we don't notice that he's coming after the entire working and middle class.”

Indiana SNAP clients between the ages of 18-49, who are not disabled and do not have children or other dependents, get benefits limited to 3 months in a 36 month period unless they are:

- Working an average of 20 hours per week for a total of 80 hours per month
- Participating in at least 20 hours a week of approved employment and training activities such as through the [Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training program](#)
- Participating in a combination of work and employment and training activities for at least 20 hrs/week
- Participating in a Community Workforce Experience (CWEP) "workfare" activity for the required hours

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This month's newsletter is a compilation of ideas and quotes from “President Trump Has Signed an Executive Order Pushing Work Requirements in Return for Welfare” <http://time.com/5235889/trump-executive-order-welfare-work-requirements>

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