



**CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

*A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families*

# **Fight Childhood Hunger:**

## **Restore State Food Assistance**

A REDUCTION TO STATE FOOD ASSISTANCE in 2012 put nearly 14,000 children in immigrant families at greater risk of hunger.

Last year, state lawmakers partially restored State Food Assistance by bringing benefit levels to 75 percent of benefits provided in Basic Food (SNAP or food stamps). **This session, we ask that they do right by Washington's future and fully fund State Food Assistance.**

### **State Food Assistance is:**

**Smart.** Like SNAP, State Food Assistance (SFA) grows when times are tough and shrinks as times get better.

**Cost-Effective.** SFA creatively piggybacks on the federal SNAP program to reduce administrative costs.

**Good for Students.** Sound nutrition fuels academic achievement.

**Fair.** State Food Assistance serves thousands of children in immigrant families. No matter where you're from, in America children deserve a great start in life.

### **Reduced assistance:**

- **Hurts our economy.** For every \$5 in benefits, SFA generates \$9 in economic activity.
- **Harms children of color.** By singling out immigrant families, this cut deepens racial and economic inequality.
- **Damages school success.** All Washington's children have a right to educational opportunity. But hungry kids can't learn. When children lack the fuel to succeed in school, we let the opportunity gap swallow up our future.

### **Hunger is a roadblock to educational opportunity**



No child should go hungry. For more than 16 years, Washington has addressed childhood hunger by creatively using federal resources.

**This session, we ask lawmakers to add \$1.37 million to State Food Assistance to restore full benefits beginning Jan. 1, 2015.**

**Help our children grow up strong. Fully fund State Food Assistance.**