



#SaveSchoolLunch House Meeting

Host Agenda

Total time: 75 minutes

Goals of the house meeting:

- 1) In community with others, learn about how SNAP is a critical part of tackling hunger in your city, and how limiting access to this program will harm hungry kids and families.
- 2) Build relationships with others in our community..
- 3) Take action together to save SNAP and free school lunch by making a plan to visit your elected leader (your mayor, Senator, or other official) to urge them to protect SNAP.

1) Get things started – 10 min

- Greet guests
- Have guests sign in using the sign-in sheet.
- Start by welcoming everyone and take care of any housekeeping issues—like letting people know where the bathrooms are or where to find snacks (if you're offering them).
- Introductions
 - Share why you decided to host this discussion.
 - Go around and ask everyone to share their name and one sentence about why they came to the meeting.
- Clarify the GOAL of this meeting by saying the following things:
 - We're here today to learn about about why SNAP and free school lunches are important, and how the Trump Administration's proposed plan will hurt families in your community.
 - We're also going to make a plan to visit [NAME OF YOUR TARGET] to ask them to fight to save SNAP and free school lunch by speaking out against this proposal—and everyone here will have a chance to take part in that visit!
 - The meeting we're having today is just one of many happening all over the country this weekend. We're not alone! We're part of something much bigger

than us, and our efforts will be amplified by the national fight to save SNAP and free school lunch.

2) Discuss SNAP and free school lunch – 20 min

Don't worry—you don't have to be an expert on SNAP or school lunch programs to talk about why we should support programs that feed hungry kids! This outline will help you give your house meeting attendees the information they need to have this conversation.

- Give an overview of the issue
 - [For this next section you can read these bullet points, or pass the agenda around and all take turns reading.]
 - Before we dig into this conversation, let's take a few minutes to learn a bit more about this issue. Here are the basics of what's happening.
 - The SNAP nutrition assistance program, which used to be called "food stamps," is the most important nutrition assistance program in the country. Lots of people rely on SNAP to have enough to eat, especially children, the elderly, and disabled folks.
 - SNAP is connected to free school lunch because kids whose families get SNAP automatically qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.
 - The Trump administration has proposed changing the SNAP rules so that fewer people can get SNAP. This proposed rule change would cut about 3 million people from SNAP, and about half a million kids would lose access to free or reduced price school lunch.
 - The families that would lose free lunch and SNAP are generally families that are struggling to get by, but are just above the official poverty line, which is **really** low. Or they may have a few thousand dollars saved for emergencies. If this rule goes through, those families and kids will lose SNAP and free lunch--and may end up hungry.
 - You might hear that the administration says they are just "closing a loophole" that allows rich people to get benefits. That's not true. Their own numbers show millions of low income families will be hurt.
 - Now we're going to watch a short local news clip. It's from Washington state but the issues it talks about are true almost everywhere, and it lays out what's happening really well.
 - Now play this 3-minute YouTube video for your attendees:
<https://youtu.be/rzL6BtA6GaU> **(BE SURE THIS HAS BEEN SET UP ALREADY)**
 - When you've finished watching the YouTube clip, take a few minutes to react to what you learned. Ask your attendees to share initial feelings and thoughts.
- Share why protecting SNAP and school lunch matters to you
 - Reflect on the reasons why you care about this issue. Why did you decide to host this meeting? Why does protecting free school lunch (and by extension food

stamps as a whole) matter to you? Briefly share with your meeting attendees why you're invested.

- Ask participants why protecting SNAP, and free school lunch in particular, matters to them. Why do they care about this?

3) Make an action plan – 30 min (BE SURE YOU'VE DOUBLE CHECKED YOUR HOST GUIDE SO YOU KNOW WHO YOU SHOULD TARGET)

- Take a moment to remind everyone that even though the threat to SNAP and free school lunch is terrible, we have the power to try and stop this cruel change! We can all take action in our own community to make sure hungry kids and families are fed.
- Also remind meeting attendees that one of the goals of this meeting is to create a plan to visit an elected leader or public official.
- Talk about how this is a chance to step up as members of your community to make a difference in the lives of those around you.
- **WHY TARGET LOCAL LEADERS**
 - We need to raise the alarm on the proposed changes to SNAP and free school lunch, and we can do that by getting more officials and elected leaders to speak out.
 - This issue is so important in our state and schools, but so many leaders have remained quiet.
 - We have the power to change this—and to remind our leaders that we're paying attention to what they are (and aren't) doing for us.
- **IF YOUR TARGET IS A MAYOR**
 - Mayors have consistently proven that they have the ability to influence federal policies. They have even shown their ability to shape international policies, which is what the [Climate Mayors](#) did with the Paris Agreement.
 - The US Conference of Mayors wrote a letter urging Mayors to sign on in support of SNAP — and they have already gathered over 70 endorsements.
 - Let's get our mayor to endorse a public statement, too!
- Once you've talked about your target with your house meeting attendees, spend some time going over the plan for your office visit.
 - Make sure everyone is clear about your target's name, and why it's important to meet with them in particular. (Refer to talking points above as needed.)
 - Tell your attendees about the basic plan for your meeting. You can refer to the agenda for your Electeds Office Visit.
 - In general: Tell your attendees that the goal is to get your target to commit to release a statement about their support of SNAP and free school lunch
 - IF YOUR TARGET IS A MAYOR: They can do this by endorsing the mayors' letter that calls for SNAP protections.
- If you already have an appointment for the visit, share the day, time, and location. If not, then collectively decide on the day and time you and your attendees can make the visit. Ideally, these visits should happen between October 21-25.

- Take a few moments to ask people if they have any questions about the office visit. Your attendees might need additional clarification about your target, or about the nuts and bolts of your visit. They may be nervous or anxious or excited—and sometimes it just helps to talk about it! Remember that you don't have to know all the answers, and if you find yourself in need of critical information, you can always email snap@parents-together.org for help.
- Tell your attendees that they don't need to have any prior knowledge about office visits to elected leaders in order to make this a great experience! You'll all work together to make this meaningful and impactful.
- Make sure that the basic components of your office visit are covered—including getting commitments from your attendees. This also means that any roles required to do the visit are assigned.
 - Make sure you know who is coming with you!
 - Who will send a [Media Alert](#) to your local media outlets?
 - Who will print out and bring the materials packet for the office visit? Who will speak at the event? Will it be one person, or a team?
 - If you have already set the electeds office visit date and time as the host, does it need to be confirmed? If yes, who will do that? If you haven't made an appointment and it will be necessary to do so, who will schedule this with your elected official, and how will they communicate to the rest of the group the date, time, and location of that visit?

4) Determine next steps – 10 min

- Go over and clarify what needs to happen between now and your visit.
- Confirm who's doing what task and when it will be completed.
- Answer any remaining questions folks may have about the plan.

5) Close – 5 min

- Thank everyone for coming.
- Make sure everyone knows what will happen next with your visit to your elected official's office. Confirm commitments from attendees. If you still need to set up your office visit with your target official, then let your attendees know you'll make sure they receive an email containing the details.
- Take a group picture and post it on Facebook and add #SaveSchool Lunch! You can also email digital photos to snap@parents-together.org.