Recipients in Food Assistance Program — January - June 2020

In Iowa, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is called Food Assistance, a federally funded program that provides benefits to low-income Iowans to purchase food. To be eligible for the Program, a family must have a household income not to exceed 160.0% of the federal poverty level. For a family of three, that equals a gross annual income of approximately $34,752. The average benefit is $226.90 per month per household or $109.05 per month per individual.

January - May 2020
There has been a gradual decline in Program enrollment over the past two years, with a sharp increase in April of 31,909 recipients (10.7%) and May 7,851 recipients (2.4%) related to the COVID-19 shutdown. Statewide enrollment increased by 12.3% since January.

May - June 2020
June 2020 enrollment decreased by 29,787 recipients (8.8%), with the economy reopening and individuals returning to work.

Sources: Department of Human Services, LSA Calculations
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