

State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SSNAP)

Monies from this program are used to purchase nutritious, high protein foods for distribution to soup kitchens, emergency shelters and food pantries. Hundreds of agencies participate in the program and hundreds of thousands of citizens benefit from it.

Connecticut Food Bank holds this contract, which entails determining charities' eligibility, maintaining statistics on people served, ordering food and getting it distributed across the state. SSNAP foods supplement food bank donations from other sources, which often provide only limited protein.

The contract allows for purchase of food only. There is no administrative allowance. All SSNAP foods are purchased from Connecticut-based businesses, thus encouraging the state economy.

SSNAP began in 1988 as a totally state funded program. Since then more and more of the money has come from Federal block grants and less from the State.