

Improving Access to Farmers Markets



The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), **known as 3SquaresVT in Vermont**, aids low-income individuals and families, those with annual household incomes of less than 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL) with nutrition assistance. Recipients pay for food using an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. Adults over 65 receive a cash benefit deposited directly into a bank account.

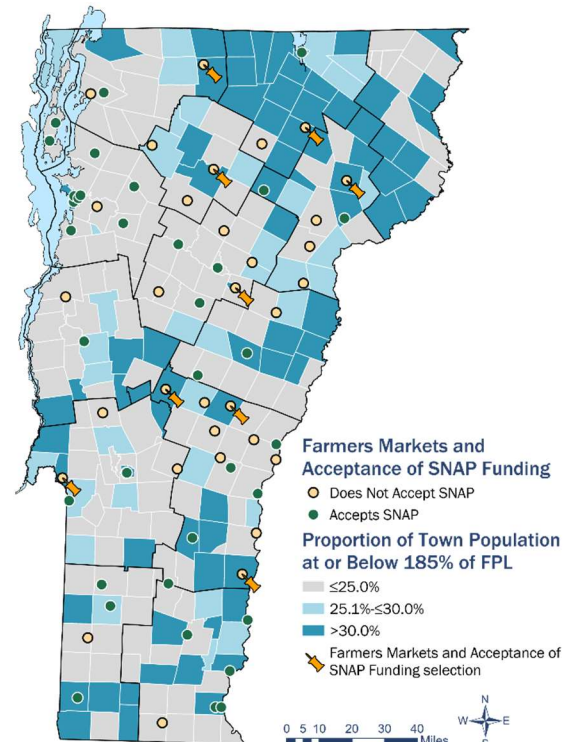
Inadequate Access to Nutritious Food Leads to Poor Health

- Poor nutrition is one of three behaviors (along with physical inactivity and tobacco use) that lead to four diseases (heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and lung disease) that result in over 50% of deaths among Vermonters.
- Farmer's Markets close to where people live, can be **easily and safely reached** by walking, biking, transit or car. Many accept a variety of payment options including EBT, ensuring all Vermonters access to healthy local food. This access helps to make the healthy choice the easy choice.

47% (32 of 68) of Farmers Markets Do Not Accept SNAP/EBT

- 26 of 68 markets (38%) are in towns that have a SNAP eligible population of more than 30%.
- Of those, 9 markets (35%) do not accept SNAP/EBT.

This map shows the location of farmers markets that accept and do not accept SNAP funding, along with the SNAP eligible population by town. Mapping this together shows several markets not accepting SNAP funding in towns with a high SNAP eligible population. People who live in these towns may benefit from having those markets accept SNAP funding.



Using EBT at Farmers Markets

- The [SNAP/EBT section](#) of the Farmers Market Legal Toolkit describes how local markets can implement SNAP/EBT.
- The Northeast Organic Farming Associations (NOFAs) [3SquaresVT/EBT at Farmers Markets](#) website describes how to use EBT at Vermont Farmers Markets.