



Underclassmen shine as the standout athletes this past winter

SPORTS, 1B

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ANALYSIS



A Houston resident who is a SNAP beneficiary holds her ID card for the program. The average SNAP benefits, which many people refer to as food stamps, as of 2025 are \$188 per person per month, which comes to about \$6 a day. About 42 million low-income Americans receive them. MOISES AVILA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

NY accuses Duffy of withholding \$73M in funding

Thomas C. Zambito
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

New York sued the Trump administration accusing Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy of risking public safety by withholding over \$73 million in highway funding the state was promised.

The lawsuit, filed April 24 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit Court, seeks to prevent the administration from withholding funding because the state refused to revoke hundreds of bus and truck licenses issued to foreign-born drivers.

“By cancelling this funding, the federal government is putting jobs and communities at risk,” state Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement. “New Yorkers are counting on these investments, and we will not let the president jeopardize our

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Food aid doesn't make people loafers

Research: Benefits help people find jobs

Claudia Strauss

PITZER COLLEGE | THE CONVERSATION

Millie Morales believes in hard work. • “I feel that as an American citizen, we all have a great opportunity to be able to improve our life,” the 58-year-old woman explained in an interview I conducted with her in 2025. “Are you willing to put in the work, or are you not?” • Morales, whose name I changed to protect her privacy, was a stay-at-home mom devoted to caring for her large family. After her divorce, she worked at social service agencies and enrolled at a local college. Then her ex-husband stopped paying for child support, and she and her eight children faced eviction.

She said she is very grateful for the government benefits she received for the first time, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which helps low-income Americans buy groceries.

Those benefits made it possible for her to keep putting food on the table and remain housed until she earned a college degree and obtained jobs that could pay those bills. Now she assists families dealing with difficult medical decisions, a job that makes her feel she is able to help others through hard times in their lives.

Learning how people think about work

Morales is one of more than 100 Americans I have interviewed for my research on how people think about work and about government assis-

tance. Currently, I am updating the research on how Americans think about government assistance, which is how I met Morales. Not all of the participants in these projects received SNAP benefits before or after these interviews.

But among those who had, I found her experience typical: SNAP provided a crucial source of support while they looked for work. With the exception of a few in their late 50s and 60s who faced age discrimination and eventually retired, all persisted until they found another job.

My research highlights that most of the people who get benefits through SNAP and other government programs want to work. And SNAP supports their work ethic.

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Study: NY ranks among best states to raise families

Madison Scott
New York Connect Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

Raising a family is hard anywhere, but it may be easier to do in New York, a WalletHub study revealed.

The WalletHub study that some states offer more support than others when it comes to raising a family. Access to affordable groceries, child care, work opportunities and affordable housing can make a huge impact on raising a family, but which states offer these resources?

“Raising a family has become significantly more expensive in recent years as the cost of living has risen quickly,” WalletHub Analyst Chip Lupo said. “In fact, it can cost a family as much as \$320,000 to raise a child to age 18, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.”

To determine the best and worst

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