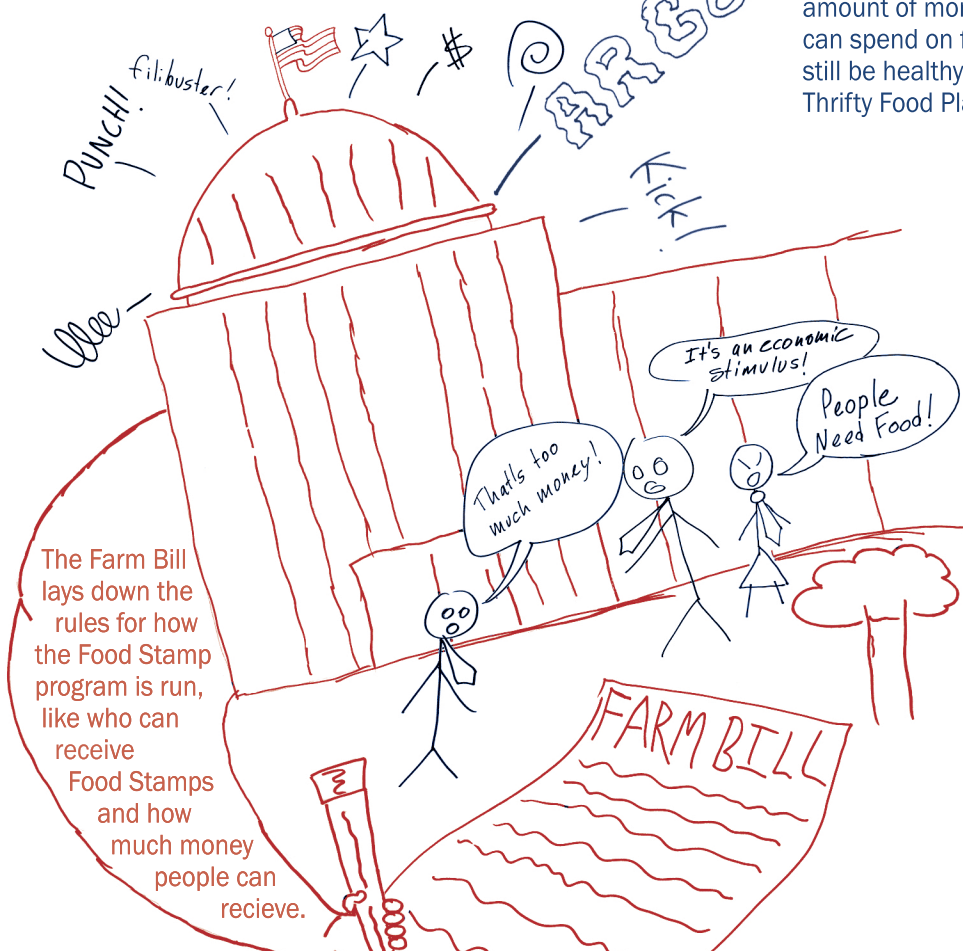


# Who makes decisions about Food Stamps?

## The Federal Government

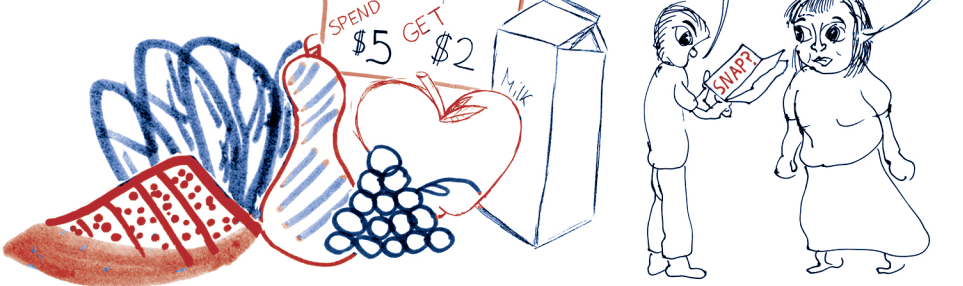
Congress writes a law called the Farm Bill every five years. It covers almost everything about farms and food, including the food stamp program (also called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP).



## New York City

The NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) runs the Food Stamps program in the city. It decides if families qualify for Food Stamps and gives them the monthly amount on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

The New York City Health Department distributes Green Bucks, which is a coupon worth \$2 in fresh vegetables for every \$5 of Food Stamps customers spend at farmer's markets.



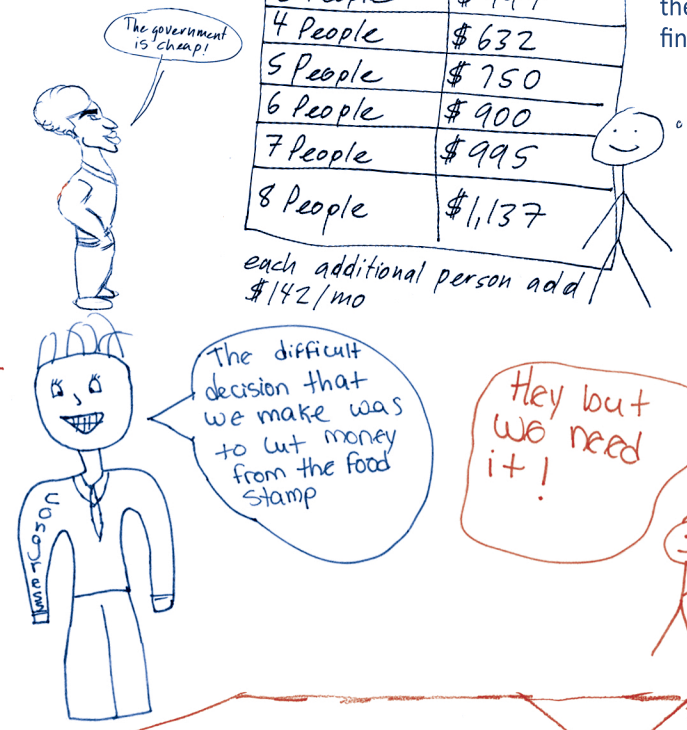
## The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The USDA decides on a food budget every year that they think is the least amount of money a person or family can spend on food per month and still be healthy. This is called the Thrifty Food Plan.

THRIFTY FOOD PLAN

Household size:	Monthly Food Budget
1 Person	\$189
2 People	\$347
3 People	\$497
4 People	\$632
5 People	\$750
6 People	\$900
7 People	\$995
8 People	\$1,137

each additional person add \$142/mo



## New York State

Sometimes the state government will step in to change how things are done in New York City. Like in 2012, when they told NYC to stop fingerprinting people applying for food stamps. The mayor and Human Resources Administration (HRA) resisted, but in the end, the city stopped fingerprinting.



**CUP**  
Teaching artist: James Whitman  
Project lead: Pema Domingo-Barker  
Project support: Valeria Mogilevich

**International Community High School Students:**  
Adribe Cortorreal, Yakianny Gomez, Jose Cepeda, Hector Taveraz, Samirath Ghabode, Fanta Drame, Lilliveth Ortega, Jonathan Acevedo, Bremdor Brennes, Paula Gonzalez, Argenis Lamar, Heba Allahabi, Janibel Martinez, Marwan Alsaidi, Marilyn Castillo, David Vasquez, Moustapha Diop, Fatoumata Diallo, Julia Encarnacion

**Classroom teacher:** Alhassan Susso

**Community coordinator:** Yadira Echivarria

**Thanks to our interviewee:**  
Sairah Budhwani, Urban Justice Center

**More thanks to:** Juell Stewart, Lizzie Hurst



Students from the International Community High School in the Bronx worked with teaching artist James Whitman to find out who makes decisions about Food Stamps. They talked to a community advocate, drew diagrams of the Food Stamp system, and thought of alternatives to the Food Stamp program. They made this fold-out poster to show how Food Stamps work, and perspectives they researched.

**The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)** is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement. **City Studies** are CUP's project-based in-class and afterschool programs that use design and art as tools to research the city.

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**International Community High School** is a progressive public high school in the South Bronx for English Language Learners.

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This project was made possible by the Bay and Paul Foundations, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Additional support is provided by Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito.



