

STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT INDIANAPOLIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-55

**FOR: MAKING INDIANA HEALTHY AGAIN BY ENHANCING
NUTRITION IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS.

WHEREAS, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) is administered by the State of Indiana to provide food assistance and a more nutritious diet to lower-income Hoosiers;

WHEREAS, despite the program’s purpose of providing a more nutritious diet to low-income households, soda is the number one commodity purchased with SNAP benefits, and purchases of sweetened beverages, desserts, and candy exceed the combined sales of fruits and vegetables with SNAP benefits;

WHEREAS, SNAP enrollees consume significantly more sugary drinks than non-recipients, with children enrolled in SNAP consuming 43 percent more than children not enrolled in SNAP with similar incomes;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that the overconsumption of sugary sweetened beverages, including soda, is associated with weight gain and obesity and obesity-related diseases such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and hypertension;

WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, the leading cause of death in Indiana is heart disease;

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Indiana has one of the highest adult obesity rates in the United States, with nearly 40 percent of adults in Indiana being obese;

WHEREAS, nearly one-third of Indiana's children are currently classified as overweight or obese, placing them at significant risk for the development of serious chronic conditions that affect their long-term health and productivity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BRAUN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby order that:

1. The Family and Social Services Administration (“FSSA”) shall submit a request for a waiver to the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (“USDA”), to authorize the Division of Family Resources (“DFR”) to exclude candy and soft drinks from the definition of eligible foods under 7 U.S.C. 2012(k) and 7 C.F.R. 271.2. If such waiver is granted, the Secretary shall prohibit the purchase of candy and soft drinks with SNAP benefits provided through the SNAP program.
 - a. The waiver shall be a request for the state to conduct a pilot project under 7 U.S.C. § 2026(b).
 - b. Candy shall mean the same as defined in Ind. Code Ann. § 6-2.5-1-12.
 - c. Soft drinks shall mean the same as defined in Ind. Code Ann. § 6-2.5-1-26.
 - d. The waiver request shall be submitted by the FSSA to the USDA within 14 days of the effective date of this order.
2. FSSA shall update any relevant portions of regulations and agency policies to ensure an expeditious and faithful implementation of the waivers submitted as a result of this Executive Order. If there are any portions of the Indiana Code that need to be updated, FSSA will prepare proposed legislation by October 31, 2025, for introduction during the 2026 legislative session.

3. The Secretary of Health and Family Services shall develop recommendations to the Governor to exclude additional items from the definition of eligible foods under 7 U.S.C. 2012(k) and 7 C.F.R. 271.2, specifically considering other items commonly understood to have low nutritional value and a positive correlation with weight gain and obesity and obesity-related diseases such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and hypertension. In developing its recommendations, FSSA shall consider the recommendations of the federal President's Make America Healthy Again Commission (as established by President Trump's E.O. 14212). FSSA shall submit these recommendations to the Governor in a written report, alongside a proposed request for waiver, immediately upon completion.
4. The Secretary of FSSA shall provide quarterly progress reports to the Governor and the Secretary of Health and Family Services until the directives in this Executive Order have been fully implemented.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I,
Mike Braun, have hereunto set my hand
and caused to be affixed the Great Seal
of the State of Indiana on this 15th day
of April, 2025.


Mike Braun
Governor of Indiana

ATTEST: Diego Morales
Secretary of State

